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THE FIERY FURNACE OF TRIBULATION.

SOME remarks were made in these columns lately on the benefits which even war brings in its train; and we may now, perhaps, supplement those remarks by suggesting that there is another—and possibly even a more important—respect still in which the uses of adversity may prove sweet. France is now passing through the fiery furnace of tribulation; she is being severely tried; will peradventure be yet more severely tried; and may we not indulge the hope that she will come purified, invigorated, ennobled, out of the

ordeal? The characters of nations as well as of individuals sometimes stand in need of correction; and there is no corrective like adversity if manfully struggled against. The national character of France seems to stand especially in need of discipline just at present; and perhaps Englishmen may be permitted to say so without either playing the pharisee or forgetting that they too have national characteristics which might with advantage be modified.

Twenty years of Caesarism has worked much mischief upon France. Denied all real share in the discussion and

management of national affairs; kept in leading-strings; encouraged in that most fatal of habits to individual energy as well as to national spirit, of expecting everything to be done for, nothing by, them; handed over in a great measure, as respects the rural population, to the sole teaching and domination of the clergy, and, as regards the urban element, addicted to sneering scepticism, socialistic theories, and mere pleasure-seeking, Frenchmen have become highly polished, it is true, but the polish does not appear to go far below the surface; when



THE EXHIBITION, IN OLD BOND-STREET, FOR GERMAN WIDOWS AND ORPHANS: THE ROYAL PICTURES.—(SEE "FINE ARTS," ILLUSTRATED TIMES, OCT. 1, PAGE 215.)

the tinsel is rubbed off, the substructure is found to consist pretty much of effeminate frivolity, overweening conceit, and offensive, domineering assumption of superiority; relieved, certainly, by personal bravery, but personal bravery reduced one-half in value by its insusceptibility of discipline. France, of late years, has woefully fallen off in intellectual power, as well as in moral stamina. She has not produced, under the sway of the Third Napoleon, one single man pre-eminent in science, literature, or art. She has had to subsist upon her old reputation in these respects; and even in the art of war, in which she claimed for herself, and was accorded by the rest of the world, the very foremost place, she is found on trial to be totally wanting. Her armies have neither generals, method, organisation, nor discipline; and, as a necessary result, have failed to achieve success, notwithstanding the gallant bearing—the almost heroic devotion—of individual soldiers. While she has lacked real statesmen and profound thinkers, she has produced a plentiful crop of wits; but wits who have been content, as a rule, to pander to her follies, to inflate her conceit, and to glorify the sayings and doings of the least reputable portion of her people. What were her journalists a little while ago?—chroniclers of the lives of demireps. What are they now?—fosterers of delusions, panderers to ignorance and prejudice, and—many of them—concealers of the truth, if not inventors of positive falsehood. What says M. John Lemoine? That his countrymen have become “a nation of liars.” What says the Bishop of Orleans? That they “had almost all of them ceased to speak the truth.” We should ourselves shrink from using such language; but the testimony is not ours; it is that of Frenchmen, and eminent Frenchmen too. Then what has been the conduct of her Ministers since the commencement of the dispute about the Hohenzollern affair, down, at all events, to Sept. 4? One continued course of arrogance, levity, and mendacity—habitual bullying, light-heartedness in wrong-doing, and studied perversion of facts.

And what, even, is the conduct of the men now in power? Why, after making all reasonable allowances for the difficulties of their position, it must be pronounced very much that of their predecessors. Within the last ten days telegrams transparently absurd have been published, with the stamp of authority. At one place we have some 30,000 Germans alleged to have been routed by 2000 Frenchmen, the story running that said 2000 Frenchmen not only defeated the 30,000 Prussians but took the whole number prisoners, besides killing and wounding an equal number; while—“the rest ran away!” Then, in the neighbourhood of Paris, on one day, eleven mitrailleuses are alleged to have been taken from the Prussians, and on another, no less than sixty-seven of these weapons; the fact being that the Germans have as yet made no use whatever of the mitrailleuse, have none near Paris (with the exception of a few specimens of a new weapon held by the Bavarians), and therefore few, if any, could be taken from them. The explanation no doubt is that, as the French have used mitrailleuses, and have had large numbers taken from them, it seemed a fine thing to retaliate in the same way. And so statements are made that it has been done—neither the inventors of the stories, the official vouchers for them, nor the gullible public for whom they are invented, having sufficient discernment to see that such tales must be inventions. Then there are the addresses issued by persons of all sorts to the people, which are probably designed—certainly are calculated—to mislead them woefully. Much is fair in war; but downright lying and slander are utterly unworthy of honourable and chivalric men, and can only bring reproach and disaster upon the cause they are supposed to serve. Take, as a thoroughly characteristic specimen of this kind of thing, an address just issued to the Vendéens by M. de l'Hebergment. Here is the opening paragraph:—

Vendéens,—France has been attacked by the savage hordes of Protestant Germany. Within a few days 120 squadrons of Uhlans detached from the enemy's corps d'armée will pour into your departments to deliver them up to pillage, murder, and robbery; to violate women, cut the throats of children, shoot old men, send all able-bodied men to the convict-hulks—to pillage houses, burn villages, destroy churches, break the statues of the Virgin Mary, and assassinate prisoners of war. Such is the mode of warfare practised by the Prussians. They seek to treat our country as a conquered land. Vendéens,—You will remember that you have never paltered with the religion of your fathers nor with the love of your country. To arms! and let not one of you be wanting at the rendezvous. Let the priests lead the parishioners to the fight. Let the mothers arm the fathers to avenge their sons slain in the carnage-fields of Alsace and Lorraine. Take your muskets, take pitchforks, pikes, axes; cast bullets, make gunpowder, and unite yourselves with us to wage with the enemy war to the death, without truce, without mercy.

We do not deprecate the resolution here expressed; that is honourable enough; but we emphatically denounce the gross lies and shameless slanders this document contains, and we lament the ignorance that renders such lies and slanders possible of perpetration. Into what woeful depths of ignorance and stupidity must that people be sunk for whom such absurd fictions can be concocted without certain detection! How utterly devoid of truthfulness must be the concoctors! and how totally lacking in common sense and ordinary intelligence must be the official repeaters of the fictions! The truth seems to be that no man in France has the courage to tell the French people the truth, because, we suppose, the French people, like tyrants, cannot bear that the truth should be spoken to them. And so the world has presented to it the sad spectacle of a great people living in an atmosphere of lies; and of journalists, statesmen, officials of

all degrees, labouring to make more and more dense the unwholesome moral and intellectual air their countrymen breathe.

When such is the conduct of men in high places—the Gramonts, Olliviers, and Palikaos—yea, even the Gambettas and Crémieuxes—what is to be looked for among those of low degree but what we have seen—ignorance, spite, panic, insubordination, gullibility, brag, and rhodomontade? While pretending to dictate to Europe, France has been a thorough sham—a huge windbag, that needed but the prick of a German bayonet to collapse utterly. Retribution has now overtaken her; she is, we say again, passing through the fiery furnace of sore tribulation; and we also again repeat our hope that she will profit by the trial—that the latent manhood of her people will be developed, and that they will come out of it better, wiser, more noble, if less pretentious, than they were; that they will eschew mean jealousy of the progress of other nations, and be content to rest their claim to influence on their own strength, not on their neighbours' weakness—on their own unity, not on the divisions of others.

And there is historical warrant for the hope, if we be still a little open to misgiving as to the expectation, that such will be the result of the suffering and struggle under which France now staggers. We might go to classic times, and point to the fact that, first after the wars with the Samnites, and the days of the Caudine forks; and second, after the battle of Cannæ, and the all-but capture of the Capitol by Hannibal, the Romans, under the chastisement of affliction, rose from their humiliation greater, more manly, more vigorous, more powerful than ever. We might point to Scotland, and, comparing small things with great, say that the continual struggle maintained by that small country against the power of Plantagenet England laid the foundation in Scotchmen of those national characteristics of hardihood, perseverance, and self-reliance that have since stood not only Scotland, but England too, in such good stead. We might point, also, to the past career of France herself, and remind Frenchmen that the long struggle against the English Edwards and Henrys developed in their ancestors those qualities that have made France one of the foremost nations of the world. There was more than mere fanatical belief in the Divine inspiration of Joan of Arc in the energy that enabled France to shake off the domination of the successors in power of our Fifth Harry: the vain-glorious self-conceit of Agincourt had been burnt out by long suffering, and had given place to the manliness born of hardship and the power to conquer begotten of continued resistance to conquest. There was more than mere effervescent enthusiasm dictating the effort that rolled back the tide of invasion and disaster from French soil in 1792-3: then, too, there was newly-developed manliness, with some measure, at least, of that self-control which is the root of genuine valour and true patriotism as well as of wisdom. But, perhaps, the most pertinent example we could name is the people that constitute the chief instrument of France's present chastisement. It was out of the defeats, the humiliations, the hardships, the restrictions inflicted upon Prussia by the First Napoleon that have sprung those great elements of Prussia's strength—national education, physical training, and military organisation. The possession of these advantages has made Prussia's soldiers indefatigable in marching, obedient to command, intelligent and cool in action, capable of comprehending the importance of the cause for which they fight—in short, as the French have found them, irresistible. If the people of France have the genuine metal of manliness in them, as we trust they have in ample measure, however it may be overlaid and concealed by surface frivolity and self-glorifying braggadocio, the fiery furnace of affliction will purify it from dross; the poundings of adversity will hammer it into brightness; and France may owe to Germany not only deliverance from political thralldom—the choking incubus of personal rule—but the development of a new life, a stronger nature, and a more exalted spirit in her people. We say if the genuine metal be left in Frenchmen's natures. That point time only can settle; and as time is needful to the completion of the process of purification, in one sense, however sad may be the necessity and painful the ordeal to be passed, it may, perhaps, be desirable for France's ultimate benefit that the war should still go on; and M. Jules Favre, in rejecting the terms offered by Count Bismarck, may have done a real service to his country. We shall see.

POSTAL CHANGES.—Some important postal changes came into operation on the 1st inst. The rate chargeable for each newspaper, whether singly or in a packet, is now one halfpenny; but a packet containing two or more registered newspapers is not chargeable with a higher rate of postage than on a book packet of the same weight—viz., one halfpenny for every 2 oz. or fraction of 2 oz. Circulars, wholly or partly printed, may now be sent for one halfpenny, if under 2 oz., as, indeed, may any matter which is now subject to the book-postage regulations. A new and important feature in our postal system is the introduction of post cards bearing an impressed halfpenny stamp. On the stamp side the address only may be written; on the other, any communication, whether a letter or otherwise, may be written or printed. These cards may be obtained at any post office. A new three-halfpenny stamp is also now issued to the public.

HOW THE ENGLISH CHURCH REWARDS HER SERVANTS.—A clergyman, who signs himself “C. B.,” and writes from Shepherd's-bush, relates his history as follows, in a letter to the *Standard*:—“By the death of the Rev. Mr. Russell, late Rector of Shepperton, I think that I am the oldest ordained clergyman in the diocese of London. I was ordained by the Bishop of Ely, on Sept. 25, 1814, fifty-six years since; and during that long period a Curate only. I was born in 1791, and was captain of Eton on the day of the jubilee for George III.; was a Fellow of my college, a principal one in Cambridge, and resigned my Fellowship by marriage before I had any preferment from my college; after having been the licensed Curate of a parish for twenty-seven years, my Rector died, the living being given to his son, a Minor Canon. I and my family were compelled to leave, with the usual notice, but with the prayers and tears of my parishioners and the kind and handsome tribute of a flattering testimonial from my good Bishop. I came to this place afflicted with total deafness, utterly unable to undertake any duty for my subsistence, and with the gifts of two small pensions from private sources, amounting to £90 a year—a very small remuneration for so long a period; and sought from the Church, whose servant I had been so long a hard-working; losing within the nine years of my residence here a beloved wife of fifty-two years of marriage life, and three children.”

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

A private letter from Paris says that the staff of the Conservatoire des Arts et Métiers is employed on the manufacture of small-arms ammunition. A scientific commission has been appointed, consisting of the following engineers:—President, M. Tresca, of the Arts et Métiers; members, MM. Martelet, Puillemin, Martin, Saurens, and Paul Lecœur. It has the following duties:—1. To organise the civil engineer volunteers. 2. To form engineer corps for special services during the siege. 3. To superintend the (private) manufacture of mitrailleuses and of shells for heavy guns.” The letter states that the public is becoming calm and determined; and its writer, an engineer of European fame, says that he could never have believed that Paris would have shown in so admirable a light under such circumstances.

Paris appears to have had a narrow escape of being blown up. Several barrels of petroleum and gunpowder were stored for safety in the caves of the Buttes-Chaumont. Some of the petroleum caught fire, and fears were entertained that it would reach the gunpowder. The fire was extinguished before it had time to do so, but no fewer than 5000 barrels of petroleum were burnt. It is, of course, supposed to be the work of a spy.

The Minister of Agriculture has ordered that 500 oxen and 5000 sheep should be daily distributed for consumption to the citizens of Paris. The meat is to be sold at fixed prices.

All the books in the Mazarine and Richelieu Libraries have been deposited for safety in the cellars of those institutions, and, in the hope of avoiding injury to the interior of the building, the windows have been protected by sacks filled with earth.

Watchmen are posted on the southern tower of Notre Dame to give warning to the inhabitants and the authorities should fire break out in any portion of the city.

A circular has been issued by the Minister of the Interior to the Prefects ordering the stringent application of the law calling out all unmarried men between twenty-one and forty years of age. The Mayors are ordered, under pain of dismissal, to have lists ready within three days of all individuals liable to serve in their respective communes.

The elections for the Constituent Assembly are fixed for Oct. 16, the day originally intended for holding them.

Admiral Fourichon has resigned his post as Delegate-Minister of War, but remains in the Ministry at the head of the navy. Admiral Fourichon's resignation was caused by the arrest of General Mazure, Commandant of the Department of the Rhône, by order of the Prefect of Lyons. Admiral Fourichon disapproved this measure, which was, nevertheless, confirmed by the Government. A decree has been issued, dated the 3rd inst., intrusting M. Crémieux with the duties of Minister of War ad interim.

A declaration of the Prefect of Lyons, explaining the arrest of the Commandant Mazure, says that the inertia of the military authorities had long filled both the Government and country with distrust. The Government, therefore, has intrusted the Prefect of Lyons with full powers. Mazure had already been warned twice, and requested to resign, but in vain. The Prefect concludes by recommending to the army the strict observance of discipline. Mazure was arrested at the Dissuel Barracks, and immense crowds collected, shouting, “Drown the traitor! Shoot him!” A decree of the Prefect orders the dissolution of all corps of Francs-Tireurs, the men immediately to return home to be incorporated in the Mobile Guard. All those disobeying will be subject to the penalties of military law.

BELGIUM.

Amongst the French refugees in Belgium there are said to be 30,000 Parisians in Brussels. Count de Palikao has taken up his residence in Spa; M. Devienne, President of the Cour de Cassation, in Brussels. Queen Isabella is supposed to have found an asylum there also.

ITALY.

The result of the plébiscite in Rome on Sunday last is favourable to the King of Italy, but the number reported as having voted is very small—in Rome 50,000 Ayes and 50 Noes. The city was illuminated in the evening. In the province of Viterbo the number of Ayes recorded was 24,207; of Noes, 228. In the province of Frosinone the numbers were 25,536 Ayes against 271 Noes. At Civita Vecchia 422 voted Yes and 13 No. Perfect order reigns at Rome and in the Roman provinces. The King has conferred the order of the Annunziata on Signor Lanza. Signor Sella has sent to the Pope 50,000 crowns, the amount of the Papal civil list for the present month. The Pope has accepted the money.

Cardinal Antonelli has protested, on behalf of the Holy See, against the “sacrilegious spoliation” committed “by the Government established in Florence.” Profiting, the document says, by the reverses of the French, it formed the disloyal resolution to consummate the spoliation when the most perfect tranquillity prevailed everywhere, and especially in Rome.

GERMANY.

The conferences between Herr von Delbrück and the South German Ministers, which lasted from Sept. 22 to 27, are said to have possessed merely the character of discussions, the points on which an agreement existed being put on paper. The subject of the conversations was the establishment of a Bund between the North German and South German States, the States of South Germany contemplated in this arrangement being at present only Bavaria and Wurtemberg. The progress of the discussions was very satisfactory, and a communication is now awaited from the Prussian Government to arrange for the commencement of the real negotiations. The National Liberal party is advocating the convocation of a Constituent Assembly to deliberate upon the modifications of the North German Constitution which will be necessary for the establishment of a Bund which shall embrace all German States.

It is officially announced that the number of French prisoners in Germany amounts to 150,000. A special office of reference for the convenience of French officers has been established at Berlin. The prisoners are now employed on public works on a considerable scale. From 1500 to 2000 are engaged in embanking the Elbe at Magdeburg; 4000 are reclaiming waste lands in Hanover; and in other provinces similar undertakings are being carried out. The Augsburg visitors to the 1198 prisoners at Lechfeld are so numerous that many are conveyed in good-waggons. The making of a road through the plain has been commenced in order to employ them. The labour is optional, but the wages are such as to induce most of them to volunteer. Some are occupied in cutting out wooden figures, windmills, and other toys, which they ingeniously accomplish with a bread-knife. The rations are the same in material and quantity as those supplied to German troops; but they are not quite satisfied with them, and make more demands than become prisoners. They receive with incredible indifference the news of the continued defeats of their countrymen, the capture of the Emperor, and so forth.

AUSTRIA.

An Imperial patent has been issued, dated Wednesday, ordering direct elections for the Reichsrath to be held immediately in Bohemia, in virtue of the seventh paragraph of the Fundamental Law of the Empire.

DENMARK.

The King of Denmark opened his Parliament, on Monday, with a speech from the throne. His Majesty said it was difficult for human eyes to foresee the conclusion and consequences of the terrible war in France, but he clings to the hope that the question pending between Denmark and Prussia may be settled in a way securing Denmark's future independence, and ensuring in future good relations with its southern neighbours.

THE UNITED STATES.

Floods in the South American States have done enormous damage. In consequence of severe freshets in the James and

Potomac rivers, in Virginia and Maryland, the cities of Richmond, Lynchburg, Washington, Alexandria, and Georgetown have been partially submerged. Harper's Ferry was devastated, and forty-seven lives were lost there. The total value of property lost exceeds 4,000,000 dols. About one hundred lives have been lost. The waters are now subsiding.

CHINA.

Intelligence from Shanghai, dated Sept. 15, is to the effect that the Chinese are threatening foreigners in Kiu-Kiang, Chin-Kiang, and Chefoo. In Hong-Kong, on the same date, rumours were current of further assassinations caused by the anti-foreign feeling. Troops were massing between Tien-Tsin and Peking, ostensibly to protect foreigners, though their real object was considered doubtful.

COUNT BISMARCK AND M. FAVRE.

The following circular has been addressed by Count Bismarck to the North German Embassies and Legations in reference to M. Jules Favre's report of the late peace negotiations:—

FERRIERES, Sept. 27.

The report of M. Jules Favre, presented to his colleagues after our interview on Sept. 21, causes me to address to your Excellency a communication which will give you a correct idea of what passed between us. Upon the whole, I cannot but admit that M. Favre has endeavoured to convey an accurate account of the transaction. If he has not fully succeeded in so doing, his errors are sufficiently explained by the length of our interviews and the circumstances under which they were held. With regard to the drift of his entire argument, I ought, however, to observe that the primary topic of our conversations was not the conclusion of peace, but of an armistice, which was to precede it. As to our terms of peace, I expressly declared to M. Favre that I should state the frontier we should claim only after the principle of cession of territory had been publicly conceded by France. In connection with this the formation of a new Moselle district, with the arrondissements of Saarbrück, Châteauneuf, Saargemünd, Metz, and Thionville, was alluded to by me as an arrangement included in our intentions; but I have not renounced the right of making such further demands as may be calculated to indemnify us for the sacrifices which a continuance of the war will entail upon us. M. Favre called Strasbourg the key of the house, leaving it doubtful which house he meant. I replied that Strasbourg was the key of our house, and we therefore objected to leave it in foreign hands. Our first conversation, in Châteauneuf, near Metz, was confined to an abstract inquiry into the general characteristics of the past and present ages. M. Favre's only pertinent remark on this occasion was that they would pay any sum—*tout l'argent que nous aurons*—but declined any cession of territory. Upon my declaring such cession to be indispensable, he said, in that case, it would be useless to open negotiations for peace; and he argued on the supposition that to cede territory would humiliate—nay, dishonour—France. I failed to convince him that terms such as France had obtained from Italy and Germany, without having the excuse of previous war—terms which France would have undoubtedly imposed upon us had we been defeated, and in which nearly every war had resulted down to the latest times—could have nothing dishonouring in themselves to a country vanquished after a gallant struggle, and that the honour of France was of no other quality or nature than the honour of all other countries. M. Favre likewise declined to see that, as a question of honour, the present restoration of Strasbourg would be on a par with the former restoration of Landau and Sarrelouis, and that the honour of France was just as little bound up with the unlawful conquests of Louis XIV. as it had been with those of the First Republic or the First Empire. Our conversations took a more practical turn at Ferrières, where they referred to the question of an armistice. Such having been their exclusive theme at that place, it is not surprising that I refused an armistice under any conditions. M. Favre doing me, on this and other occasions, the honour of asking me to express my own personal notions—for instance, "*il faudrait un armistice et je n'en veux à aucun prix*"—and such like—compels me to rectify his allegations. I never, in conversations of this kind, speak of myself as according or denying anything, but only communicate the intentions and demands of the Government whose business it is to transact. In the conversation we both were of opinion that an armistice might be concluded to give the French nation an opportunity of electing a Representative Assembly, which alone would be in a position so far to strengthen the title to power possessed by the existing Government as to render it possible for us to conclude with them a peace valid in accordance with the rules of international law. I remarked that to an army in the midst of a victorious career an armistice is always injurious; that in the present instance, more particularly, it would give France time to reorganise her troops and to make defensive preparations, and that, therefore, I could not accord an armistice without some military equivalent being conceded to us. I mentioned as such the surrender of the fortresses obstructing our communications with Germany, because, if by an armistice we were to be detained in France longer than was absolutely necessary, we must insist upon increased means of bringing up provisions. I referred to Strasbourg, Toul, and some less important places. Concerning Strasbourg, I urged that, the crowning of the glaciés having been accomplished, the conquest of that place might shortly be anticipated, and that we therefore thought ourselves entitled to demand that the garrison should surrender as prisoners of war. The garrisons of the other places would be allowed free retreat. Paris was another difficulty. Having completely inclosed this city, we could permit it renewed intercourse with the rest of France only if the importation of fresh provisions thereby rendered possible did not weaken our military position and retard the date at which we might hope to starve out the place. Having consulted the military authorities and taken his Majesty's commands, I therefore ultimately submitted the following alternative:—"Either the fortified place of Paris is to be given into our hands by the surrender of a commanding portion of the works, in which case we are ready to allow Paris renewed intercourse with the country, and to permit the provisioning of the town; or, the fortified place of Paris not being given into our hands, we shall keep it invested during the armistice, which latter would otherwise result in Paris being able to oppose us at its expiry, reinforced by fresh supplies, and strengthened by new defences." M. Favre peremptorily declined handing over any portion of the works of Paris, and also refused the surrender of the Strasbourg garrison as prisoners of war. He, however, promised to take the opinion of his colleagues at Paris respecting the other alternative under which the military status quo before Paris was to be maintained. Accordingly, the programme which M. Favre took to Paris as the result of our conversations and which was rejected there, contained nothing as to the future conditions of peace. It only included an armistice of from a fortnight to three weeks, to be granted on the following condition, in order to enable the election of a National Assembly to be held:—Firstly, in and before Paris the maintenance of the military status quo; secondly, in and before Metz the continuance of hostilities within a circle hereafter to be more accurately defined; thirdly, the surrender of Strasbourg with its garrison, and the evacuation of Toul and Bitsche, their garrisons being accorded free retreat. I believe our conviction that this was a very acceptable offer will be shared by all neutral Cabinets. If the French Government has not availed itself of this opportunity for having a National Assembly elected in all parts of France, those occupied by us not excepted, this indicates a resolve to prolong the difficulties which prevent the conclusion of a valid peace and to ignore the voice of the French people. From all we see here the conviction is forced upon us, as it no doubt is likewise upon the rulers at Paris, that free and unbiased general elections will yield a majority in favour of peace. I request your Excellency to communicate this circular to the Government to which you are accredited.

BISMARCK.

M. Jules Favre having asked permission for the Diplomatic Body in Paris to leave before the commencement of a bombardment, and to have notice for that purpose, and also that a courier may be permitted to leave with despatches once a week, Count Bismarck writes in reply, dated his letter Sept. 26:—

In reply to the communication I had the honour to receive to-day, I regret that military considerations forbid the giving of notice regarding the time and manner of the attack on the fortress of Paris. The customs of war do not ordinarily admit of correspondence with besieged fortresses. Still, we willingly permit the forwarding of open letters of diplomatic agents, provided that they are unquestionable in a military point of view. We cannot, however, regard or treat as well founded the opinions of those who deem the interior of the fortifications of Paris during a siege an appropriate centre of diplomatic intercourse. This also appears to be the view of those neutral Governments whose representatives have removed their residence to Tours.

GENERAL DUCROT.—We have been requested to publish the following statement:—"Ferrières, Sept. 29, 1870.—The French General Ducrot, taken prisoner at Sedan, had pledged his word of honour to proceed thence to Pont-à-Mousson and had pledged his word of honour to proceed thence to Pont-à-Mousson. Interpreting his word of honour in a Jesuitical manner, General Ducrot did, indeed, travel in his carriage to Pont-à-Mousson, but did not surrender himself there. He has, on the contrary, fled to Paris. When we see other officers serve there with one who has so deeply broken his word, we can only regard it as a bad sign for the value attached in the French army to the notions of honour. It is natural that, in consequence of this experience, the word of a French officer can henceforth only be less thought of on the part of Germany, and that the consideration hitherto shown to captive French officers will have to be essentially restricted. The contrary would evidently be foolish weakness."

THE WAR.

MISCELLANEOUS WAR NEWS.

The Prussian Royal head-quarters were removed on Wednesday from Ferrières to Versailles. Official advices from head-quarters report that the preparations for a regular attack on the fortifications and shelling Paris are completed. The siege guns and mortars have arrived, and are in position for immediate operations.

A telegram from Tours, of Thursday's date, recounts another engagement. It says that General Rey, in a report to the Government, dated Chevilly, announces that, at five o'clock in the morning of Wednesday, he advanced towards Tours with three brigades of cavalry and infantry and three half-batteries of artillery. At seven a.m. he arrived before Chussey. A squadron of hussars surrounded the village, and carried off five prisoners from the Royal Bavarian Regiment. Notwithstanding the enemy's artillery, which comprised ten 12-pounders, and which dismounted some of the French guns, the movement forward continued, and General Bessière's brigade turned the village of Tours on the right. The enemy's cavalry, numbering from 400 to 500, supported by 2000 infantry, were compelled to beat a hasty retreat towards Paris. The French continued the pursuit beyond Tours for three or four hours, and the movement was then stopped, the troops being overcome by fatigue. General Rey made a thorough reconnaissance of the enemy's strength, and ascertained the presence of Princes Albert of Saxe-Meiningen and Saxe-Altenburg. General Rey captured from the enemy a herd of cattle, including 147 cows and 52 sheep, which have been sent on to Arthenay.

Two engagements are reported (on French authority) to have taken place, on Tuesday. In the first the advance of the Prussians on Epemont was opposed by the National Garde Mobile and the Franc-Tireurs; but the French were obliged to retire, and the German forces took possession of and now occupy the place. In the second the French were more successful in an encounter with a detachment of Prussian cavalry and infantry marching on Fontainebleau, which they are said to have attacked and driven back to Chailly with considerable loss.

The Prussians took possession of Neuvaux on Friday night week, entering the town from various directions with such promptitude that a watchman stationed on the tower of the cathedral had no time to give the alarm to the municipality, who were assembled to deliberate in which direction the enemy's advance should be opposed. The Prussians immediately placed a guard at the Hôtel de Ville, where the arms of the Garde Nationale were deposited by order of the commanding General. Fighting was carried on on Tuesday under the walls of Soissons. A battalion of Garde Mobile of the Département de l'Aisne, commanded by the Duke de Fitz James, and a battalion of the 15th Line, distinguished themselves (the French account tells us) by a brilliant sortie.

A new German army, to consist of 170,000 men, and intended to operate in the south of France, is in process of formation at Freiburg. German troops have crossed the Rhine, and marched in the direction of Mulhouse and also of Schelestadt. It is reported that a large German force, to consist of 100,000, is assembling at Toul, with a view of marching upon Lyons. According to the Berlin *Provincial Correspondence*, the troops disposable by the fall of Strasbourg, and the 4th Division of Reserve near Freiburg, will be employed in occupying Upper Alsace, Mulhouse, and Colmar, and will surround or capture Belfort, Schelestadt, and Neubreisach.

General von Allee, hitherto military governor of Coblenz, has been appointed to a similar position in Strasbourg. The seat of the Governor-General of Alsace has been removed from Haguenau to Strasbourg.

A Royal decree has been published ordering the districts of France occupied by the Prussian army which have not been included in the jurisdiction of the Governor-General of Alsace and Lorraine to be placed under the administration of the Governor-General of Rheims. The Grand Duke of Mecklenburg is appointed to this latter post.

THE SIEGE OF BITSCH.

The siege of Bitsche was taken in hand in the middle of August. On the 24th four 60-pounder mortars and five batteries of four 12-pounder breech-loaders each commenced bombarding the fortress. On Sept. 4 there was a sortie against the besiegers, who consist of the 4th Wurtemberg and two battalions of the 8th Bavarian. The sortie was repeated on the 11th and 29th, in the direction of Freudenberg and Saspelscheidt. These attempts were completely repulsed, with small loss to either side. From the 11th to the 20th there was a severe bombardment, which dismounted several cannon and destroyed about 120 houses and the castle on the fort. After firing 20,000 shot the besieging batteries became disabled and were removed to Germersheim. The Wurtembergers were also withdrawn, the Bavarians being left for the purpose of observing. On Friday, Sept. 30, Saturday, Oct. 1, and Monday, Oct. 3, the garrison made sorties, with cavalry and infantry, protected by cannon, and destroyed batteries and farms where the besiegers' outposts lay. The fort is a perpendicular rock, like Gibraltar, 200 ft. high, casemated, and nearly impregnable. The garrison consists of 2000 men. The peasantry speak German, but there is an intensely French sentiment amongst them.

GUN-BOATS ON THE SEINE.

The French have placed on the Seine, for the defence of Paris, the gun-boats of light draught which were originally intended to be used in operations on the Rhine. The first engagement of these vessels is now reported by the French. It appears that two of them, the Claymore and the Sabre, received orders last week to take part in the placing of a bridge of boats, which was to replace the permanent bridge destroyed by the French at Suresnes. Near Sèvres the Claymore was assailed by a shower of Prussian bullets, one of which disabled the man at the wheel, and the current immediately drifted her to the left bank of the river, where she grounded. The Prussians fired with musketry and grape, and the iron plates of which her armour consists were drilled through and through like a cullender. At the end of a quarter of an hour the Claymore was warped off, and as soon as her head could be got round, she opened with her 30-pounder on the Prussians, and fired several volleys of grape, which silenced their fire, and the Claymore regained her moorings. The other vessel does not appear to have been in a position to render her companion much assistance.

FRENCH PREPARATIONS IN THE SOUTH.

The efforts that have been made in the south of France to raise a force for the relief of Paris have not yet resulted in the organisation of a single army, although we have often seen the names of the armies of the Loire and Rhone in despatches from Tours and elsewhere. A roving correspondent of an evening contemporary, evidently a practised observer, writing from Tours and Bourges, gives the results of his investigation upon a tour of discovery. In Normandy he found a great deal of military activity, principally directed to the defence of Rouen and Havre. At Bourges, so he heard at Tours, an army was being formed to consist of 80,000 men. At Tours the young troops are drilled with the old-fashioned muzzle-loader until the day before their departure, when they receive a few lessons in the manual exercise of the chassepot. The really weak point of the army of the Loire will be the field artillery. The sole idea of the authorities at present appears to get men to the front, and to rely upon the marine reserves for artillery. To this army of Bourges no officer has yet been appointed in command; it is being organised in sections, and not until a few days have passed will there be any nomination. As for the army of the Rhone, the result of inquiry was that it exists as yet only in idea. The reorganisation of the fugitives from Sedan gives infinite trouble at Tours. On various slopes round the city there are camps where the work is being attempted, but it is a most difficult affair. Wearing all kinds of uniforms, the fugitives have at present no *esprit de corps*, and appear to be thoroughly demoralised. The Zouaves, in particular, are dirty,

careless of their arms and accoutrements, reckless of speech and action, and go about the streets intoxicated. The infantry of the marine, on the other hand, are a fine body, while the free corps and the Norman and Breton Mobiles make an exceedingly favourable impression. The Mobiles of the South are not distinguished by nearly so much physical power. Indeed, many of them which have been seen at Tours are mere boys of seventeen or eighteen, and the rest are chiefly undersized, badly fed, and badly set up. But all of them seem to be full of spirit, and not in the least likely to fail their officers when called upon. At Bourges the correspondent finds things not at all to his military ideas. He spends a whole day in going from one military station to another in and round the city, and sees a little marching and counter-marching; a good deal of lounging, and smoking, and domino-playing, and carabolling at billiards; some assembling and dismissing of Mobiles, but not one attempt at drill. What he sees makes him almost despair of the French cause, to which he evidently wishes well. He meets an officer of high rank, who, at the beginning, is as vague and unsatisfactory as the rest, but who, after a while, takes him to his house and fairly opens his heart. He has served in the Crimea, in Algeria, in Italy, and so knows what real work is. He does not conceal his great anxiety. The want of artillery and skilled artillerymen is serious, still more so the terrible want of discipline, which has been aggravated by the declaration of the Republic. The men know very little of drill, and they are not willing to learn; the officers do not care about teaching them. In the face of a good German division they would be like a lot of untrained dogs, individually plucky, but utterly unable to act together. He complained, further, that the army was too much scattered to be available for any effective movement at a day's notice. The 80,000 men of whom the army of the Loire and Cher is composed are at Tours, Blois, Orleans, Vierzon, Bourges, and Nevers (that is, over a line of some 130 odd miles), as a base, while the front occupies quite 190 miles. And in the army the regulars are in the proportion of about one to nine. Subsequently the correspondent sees General de la Motte-Rouge, the General who is to organise the army of the Loire. He is all hope. He declares that he has 80,000 men, all armed, with suitable ammunition for the whole of them. He has the fullest confidence in his men; the want of discipline which is everywhere visible will disappear the moment the troops face the Prussians. He is perfectly satisfied not only with the number of guns at his disposal or within easy reach, but with the skill of the men who will have to work them. Six-pounder rifle guns for batteries are being brought up from Bordeaux, and the horses for them are at Bourges. The General further assures the correspondent that there is certainly an army of about equal strength to his own being formed on the Rhone, with Besançon as a centre; from all which the inference is drawn that the Germans, both at Paris and Metz, will very soon have to look out for their own safety.

THE EMPEROR'S IDEAS ON THE CRISIS.

The following document has appeared in *La Situation*, the French journal recently established in London. It appears under the title, "*Les Idées de l'Empereur*," and is introduced by the statement that Count Bismarck, immediately after the failure of the negotiations which he had with M. Jules Favre, forwarded an exact report of what had passed to Wilhelmshöhe. The Emperor Napoleon thereupon retired to his cabinet, and the same evening dispatched M. de Castelnau to the Prussian head-quarters with the following note, the whole of which was in the Emperor's own handwriting:—

The King of Prussia, in keeping me daily informed of the events which have been accomplished since the day when Providence compelled me to surrender my sword to him, seems to call his prisoner to witness the hardships which the Prussian armies are imposing on France, in the interest, as the King believes, of Germany.

The Count's communication confirms me in this opinion. But is the time really come for me to reply to this twofold attention by the expression of my own thoughts?

Down to Sept. 4, the reserve which I have maintained since Sedan was founded upon a firm resolution to leave the Empress full and entire liberty to conform to the wishes of the country.

Since Sept. 4, however, I have been unable to restrain myself from praying that France, even in sacrificing my dynasty, might succeed in driving back the invaders beyond her natural frontiers.

In the overture made to the Count, the result of which it was easy to foresee, the war has been deprived of its veritable character, in the belief that by this means the responsibility of the moment, to the force of which my Government felt it its duty to yield, would be avoided.

That was to destroy the effect of the motives which we have for refusing to subscribe to the conditions offered; it was, above all, to paralyse the national defence at the moment when it was about to assume proportions worthy of France.

The Count appeared surprised that an armistice, necessary to the reconstruction of a regular Government, should have been refused; and he is astonished that none of the legally existing Powers should have offered an opinion upon what he regards as evidence of the King's moderation.

But surely no one would reproach a Frenchman with having repaired an imprudent step by refusing propositions little in harmony with our glorious past!

A duel like that which is taking place between France and Germany can end only in the complete ruin of one of the adversaries, or in their close and loyal reconciliation.

The Count should, therefore, in the first place, ask himself whether Germany has a greater interest in the ruin or the friendship of France; and whether if the former hypothesis be adopted, Germany does not feel that France may derive her safety from her despair, even though Europe should consent to remain an indifferent spectator of an invasion that had no fixed bounds.

My interview with the King authorises me to believe that he would much prefer an alliance with France to her ruin; that he is not without concern regarding the results of a struggle *à outrance*, and that he appreciates at their full value the claims which the complete recognition of the opinions shown by the different nations of Europe during the war would give to the two peoples thus closely allied.

If such was, in fact, the opinion of the King, nothing remains but to point out the means for making it effective. But does it really belong to the conquered to define the obligations of the conqueror, in order that his generosity may not seem less tolerable than his demands?

I can only recall to the Count that an appeal is never made in vain to the heart of the French people by heroic measures; while at the same time nothing can certainly be obtained from them by an attempt to strike in their breasts the chords of self-interest or of fear, to which they will be strangers, whatever may be the reverses Providence imposes upon them.

Inclined by generous measures to a close and loyal alliance with Germany, France would be the first to admit that a line of defence between the two empires, dominated by fortresses, would have no longer reason to exist.

As to the extreme sacrifices which France ought to make, she would not hesitate to make them the moment she was allowed to perceive the immense advantages to both nations that would result from a peace which would have henceforth their own free will as its sole arbiter.

Upon this basis the other Powers, which must maintain a complete reserve so long as France shall retain a hope of victory, would have a serious cause for intervention.

The sincere and plain exposition of the truth has always established a sympathetic current between France and myself, which nothing could destroy. It would be enough, I believe, for me to affirm that our honour has no injury to fear from a reconciliation based on the disarmament of fortresses now become useless—and upon the principle of a war indemnity, to be determined by inventory—for peace to become possible.

By these conditions France may be prevented from having recourse to those extremities which, by a caprice of fortune, might easily give the death-blow to the social order of Europe.

Reconducted by experience to a just estimate of the divisions which are tearing her asunder, and delivered from the scourge of war, France would not hesitate to acknowledge that, as she is compelled to attribute her misfortune to the want of political unity, she ought for the future to look for prosperity from the strictly observed inviolability of the Institutions.

These considerations are losing weight every day, especially if the King hesitates to take account of them before attacking Paris. The terrible shock which Providence has permitted to take place between Germany and France may have given birth to a spark of which Progress may make use for the moral and material well-being of Europe; but if there be an obstinate determination on either side to abide only by a solution of force, a fearful unknown element will inevitably be set free by this shock, as disastrous to Germany as to France.

Wilhelmshöhe, Sept. 26, 1870.

NAPOLEON.

The authenticity of the above document is denied in a telegram from Wilhelmshöhe dated Oct. 6.

AROUND PARIS.

POSITIONS OF THE GERMAN TROOPS.

THE positions of the corps forming the army investing Paris were, at the end of last week, nearly as follow:—Starting from the right wing of the Crown Prince's Army (head-quarters at Versailles), we find the Wurtemberg contingent having its head-quarters at La Lande. On the left is the 11th Army Corps, composed of regiments from Hesse and Nassau. The 6th Army Corps, composed of Silesians, is posted near Chevilly and Choisy le Roi. It is supported by the 1st Bavarian Army Corps, under General Von der Tann, which acts as a general reserve to the army south of the Seine. In front of the 1st Bavarian Army Corps, and touching the left of Von Timpling's (the 6th Corps), are the 2nd Bavarians, under Von Hartman, which lately defeated Ducrot. The right of the 5th Army Corps, composed of Poseners, touches the left of the Bavarians, and occupies Bougival and Versailles. The Crown Prince of Saxony's force, now called the Army of the Marne, lies with Von Alvensleben's 4th Army Corps of Thuringians on the height in front of St. Brie, the guards in the centre before Boissy, and the 12th Army Corps (Saxons) are posted from their flank in front of Le Vert Galant, and joining the Wurtembergers near La Lande, from which we set out. The cavalry, it will be understood, fill up the intervals, and keep up the investment by their constant movements. There can be no doubt of the complete investment of the place in a military sense, and of the success of the German armies in establishing a cordon round the city. The canals of Dhuy and Somme, Souche, and de l'Ouroq are cut, and the railways are all in hostile hands; but

the investiture of a city which extends for more than sixty miles round is one which presents obvious uncertainty of tenure, particularly when two large rivers intercept the lines of communication of the investing army. The fall of Toul will remove a great impediment to railway communication and supplies from the rear; but it is not to be expected, if the war goes on, that such lines as extend from this to the Vosges and Forbach can be kept with perfect impunity.

THE NATIONAL PALACES.

The four Palaces of St. Cloud, St. Germain, Meudon, and Versailles, have as different a fate at this moment as their recent histories are different from one another. There is a hospital in Versailles, with the strange contrast of truckle-beds upon the floors of gilded saloons that are full of pictures. But beyond this temporary use the palace remains much as so many of us can remember it—a great show place, very large, very splendid, and somewhat dull. It is out of all immediate danger, and may be its old self again three months hence. Then comes St. Germain, the partly-rebuilt, partly-ruinous home of the exiled Stuarts. This, too, is out of immediate danger, and, though not yet occupied by wounded men, is under the red-cross flag. Both of them, Versailles and St. Germain, have been fortunate in standing out of the way of the siege. It is far otherwise with Meudon and St. Cloud. The luxurious abode of Prince Napoleon and the favourite retreat of his cousin the Emperor have been placed in the very front of the battle. The woods round Meudon are held by the German outposts, the garden is destroyed by what the French did to intrench it. The house is full of soldiers on outpost duty. Beds, mattresses, chairs, are tumbled about in utter confusion; the dining-room of so

many banquets is used as an impromptu bivouac. So also at St. Cloud there is watching by day and night. Skirmishers are here more active, and bullets whistle through the trees. The boudoir of the Empress, the playgrounds of the Imperial Prince, are occupied by men who may at any moment be shot from across the Seine—a strange scene indeed for St. Cloud.

THE GERMAN PREPARATIONS.

There is busy preparation among the Germans, though they have not as yet commenced any serious attack. They are getting ready to bring a great number of heavy guns and mortars against the French forts; and I much fear that the obstinate defence which General Trochu is sure to make will lead to a partial bombardment of Paris itself—not merely of the outworks—to show the Parisians that their case is hopeless. In a former letter I have spoken of the immense advantage which the possession of the heights of Meudon, and of the rising ground above Châtillon, must be to the besiegers. When, after the fighting on Sept. 19, the German troops bivouacked above Châtillon, and pushed forward their advanced posts even into the village, it became clear that, without going any nearer to Paris, they could shell a large part of the city. Long-range guns and mortars would put the finest monuments of the capital, most crowded streets, as well as its wealthiest mansions, within the reach of King William's soldiers. Just in proportion as the strength of Paris for defence has become more clear, and the care with which it has been provisioned has been better known, the likelihood of bombardment has increased. Unwilling as is the King to destroy so beautiful a city, he will certainly destroy it rather than return baffled into Germany. There is less hope in blockade now that



ZOUAVES AND FRENCH PEASANTS CAPTURED DURING THE FIGHTING ON THE 19TH ULT., TAKEN TO THE ARTILLERY BARRACKS, VERSAILLES.

we have details of the vast preparations to feed the garrison and inhabitants. Perhaps it may be possible to reduce one of the outlying forts and approach the ramparts behind it. Yet even then the large force under General Trochu might repulse every assault, and there would be this vast, unused power of burning the place down as a reserve in the hands of the Germans. There will be a terrible cannonade when once the artillery duel begins. All along the heights to the southward there are the Germans firmly posted, and the city is straight before them, clearly to be seen, easily to be reached by shells.

It was stated the other day, in a letter from Berlin, that Krupp's monster gun, which was so wondered at in the Paris Exhibition of 1867, had been sent to the army before Paris to take part in the siege. This gun, made of solid steel, is nominally a 1000-pounder, but is constructed to fire a shot weighing 1212 lb., or a shell of 1080 lb. Its calibre is 14 in., and it is 17 ft. long. It has a forged inner tube, strengthened with three layers of rings over the powder-chamber and two layers over the muzzle portion. The manufacture of this gun continued during night and day for sixteen months, and the cost of the piece was £15,750. It is a breech-loader. The projectile and charge are inserted at the right side, the wedges having been previously loosened by a screw on the other side, the plug removed by another screw fitted to the front of the rear wedge, and the wedges drawn out and made to rest upon a bed attached to the left side of the breech. Altogether the gun is a marvellous product, but we doubt whether it can, after all, be the one intended to be sent to Paris. The piece weighs fifty tons, and is mounted on a carriage which weighs fifteen tons. Moreover, when exhibited at Paris it had never been fired, and appears to have been regarded by its owner rather as a prize weapon than as a working model. Krupp exhibited on the same occasion some 9-inch guns, throwing a shot of 330 lb., or a shell of 275 lb., which had been fired 120 rounds with 45 lb. charges, and these probably are the guns that will be used in the siege, with the aid it may be of some 12-in. guns. Krupp works at Essen, in Prussia, cover 450 acres of ground and employ 8000 men. They include 112 smelting, reverberatory, and cementing furnaces; 195 steam-engines, 49

steam-hammers, 110 smiths' forges, and 318 lathes. Their owner professes to be able to turn out one 9-in. gun a day. He has made a number of 11-in. guns for Russia, and some 15-in. guns, and states that there are no mechanical difficulties in the way of the construction of the latter. The Prussian officers assert that their siege artillery is as good as their field artillery has been proved to be.

FIGHTS NEAR PARIS.

There have been a number of engagements, besides the firing from the French forts, in the vicinity of the capital; but none of them have been of much consequence, though, in some instances, French reports magnified them into affairs of great importance. One of these combats, which may serve as a specimen of all the rest, took place on the 30th ult. Early in the morning of that day there were two sorties—one, in force, against the 6th Corps, beyond Villejuif; the other, not so vigorous and less successful, against Meudon. There was no success for either, for no ground was gained; but a certain number of Prussians were killed and wounded, and a greater number of French placed in the same category. The French appear to have crossed the river to attack the 6th Corps in boats and rafts, and the story is that there were two full divisions of Vinoy's regulars and no Mobiles, Nationals, or Francs-Tireurs. Several hundred unwounded French prisoners were made; the German official accounts state the number of killed and wounded at 1200. The Germans suffered some losses, about twenty officers and a due proportion of men having been removed from the list of effectives. The French accounts have reported this affair as a great victory; but the truth would seem to be that General Trochu had resolved to beat up the quarters of the blockading troops upon the Meudon heights, and that when he found the Germans mustering in force he withdrew his men under cover of the forts.

A correspondent, writing on the 30th, after the skirmish mentioned above, says:—"All along above Clamart, and Meudon, and St. Cloud, to the close neighbourhood of fort Mont Valérien, there are woods and gardens, giving ample cover to the blockading troops. When I rode out with a friend to-day to see what had happened in the front we found the woods strongly guarded.

Brass-topped helmets glittered among the trees, and 'Halt!' 'Who goes there?' was the constant drift of the sentries' conversation. It was not easy to move from point to point, for only an officer could take one past the posts, and as to riding about haphazard, that was out of the question. We had to be content with seeing what could be seen from a commanding point on the brow of the hill, and with turning our telescopes on Paris and on the forts, for want of a French army in the field at which to gaze. The besieged had retired to their outworks; and, but for those men with brass-topped helmets so vigilantly watching the woods, and but for the ambulances with wounded coming slowly back to Versailles, there was nothing to speak of the deadly nearness of the opposing forces. 'Could they reach us with their shells?' we asked of our courteous guide—an officer of infantry, to whom we owe thanks for his kindness in showing us a good standpoint. 'Could they reach us?' Of course they could. Everyone was within range of everyone else in these parts, he fancied. But the French did not waste their shells by chance firing into the woods. They kept them in reserve to fire at the Prussian batteries when they shall open on Paris. Our guide thought that the whole city would be within range of the different heights held by the besiegers. As to the sentries and outposts in the front, they had grown to know it quite well. See, yonder, the dome of the Invalides and yonder the Arch of Triumph. What a city it was! How they (the Germans) should like to see the sights, the galleries, the museums, to make peace, and then go home. Ah, that last would be the real time of joy!"

The scene depicted in our Engraving occurred at Versailles on the 21st ult., when a party of prisoners captured in the fight on the 19th were brought to the Crown Prince's head-quarters. They consisted chiefly of Zouaves, but among them were several peasants who had been caught in the act of firing on the German troops at the village of Bicetre. It was expected that these men would be very severely dealt with, as the practice of which they are accused has become common, and the German commanders are determined to put a stop to it. Sentence of death was accordingly pronounced upon them; but this the King has remitted.

"CHARLES IX. AND HENRY OF NAVARRE AT THE APARTMENT OF MARIE TOUCHET."

THIS is one of the last Engravings which we have received illustrating that Fine-Art Exhibition in Paris that has in a few short weeks become a thing of the remote past. We have here an illustration of the history that was allied to the French throne during dark and turbulent days, painted just 300 years after the event depicted, when France was again on the eve of a revolution effected by the most terrible calamities that have ever befallen her arms—the second humiliation to which an Empire has reduced her. This picture, by M. Charles Comte, was a great attraction at the exhibition for its delicacy of finish and beauty of drawing and colour, no less than for the pathos indicated by the subject the artist has so admirably rendered.

A VERY STRANGE STORY.

ABOUT ten days ago a Frenchman, Monsieur M—, arrived at Hastings, and demanded an audience of the Empress Eugénie. As his name was not known to her Majesty, the request was refused. Foiled in this attempt, Monsieur M— contrived to fall in with the Prince Imperial in one of his daily walks. He professed great devotion to the Napoleonic cause, and it will surprise no one that the Prince should enter readily into conversation with one whom he believed to have been driven from France by his devotion to the Imperial dynasty. These walks were repeated several days, and in the end M— asked the Prince to make him a present of one of his photographs, with the additional distinction of the Prince's own autograph appended. This natural request was at once acceded to with the kindly good-nature

which appears to be a part of the young exile's disposition. The photograph obtained, M— appeared no more in the morning walks. It has since appeared that on leaving Hastings M— made his way to the German army before Metz, and obtained a pass through the lines into the beleaguered city. It seems that among the Generals associated with Marshal Bazaine in the defence of that fortress there was one General B—, who had, as was well known in the Prussian army, distinguished himself by his zeal and intelligence in carrying on the gallant resistance to the enemy which has already won the admiration as well as the astonishment of both nations. Arrived in Metz, it was to this General B—, so valuable for the safety of the French garrison, that M— at once addressed himself. He told General B— that he had come as a messenger to him from the Empress Eugénie, and, as his credentials, he presented the photograph



CHARLES IX. AND HENRY OF NAVARRE AT THE APARTMENT OF MARIE TOUCHET.—(FROM A PICTURE BY M. COMTE.)

of her son with the signature attached. He added that the Empress desired the immediate presence of General B— in England, that she had a special mission to intrust to him, on the successful issue of which the future of the war would mainly depend, and that her Majesty dared not put it in writing lest it should fall into the hands of the enemy. General B— at once obeyed the commands of the Empress, and, as he thought, with difficulty; but, as the story reaches us, it would seem to have been with the connivance of the Prussian authorities that he got through the lines of the besiegers, and, making the best of his way to England, arrived a few days since at Camden-place, near Chiselmurst, where the Empress is now residing. The surprise of the Empress Eugénie at seeing the General was very great, and, after a few words of explanation, it was discovered that General B— had been the victim of a very novel, if not very creditable, *ruse de guerre*, by which the gallant army of Metz had been deprived of the services of one

in whom, on account of his gallantry and intelligence, they had reposed the most perfect confidence. By the last accounts that reached us the gallant General was still in England trying to arrange his return to his comrades; but he will probably not find the Imperial photograph such a good pass through the Prussian lines for him as it proved for the enterprising M.— *Pull Mall Gazette*.

The truth about this "Very Strange Story" is as follows:—The General B— in question happens to be the same who is mentioned in a telegram from Tours of Oct. 1 as having made a splendid sortie on the 29th ult., and driven the Prussians back as far as Briey. There is no indiscretion in saying that his name is General Bourbaki. It is true that this General has been mystified by some person who, being apparently ardently devoted to the Imperial family, thought to render a great service to the Empress by finding means to bring the General through the Prussian lines to her Majesty at Camden Place, near Chiselmurst.

But it is likewise true that the Prussian authorities have been victims as well of the same mystification, and, moved through a chivalrous feeling for the unhappy lady, did not refuse the General's passage. The General having, however, cleared up the misunderstanding in a letter written on the 29th ult. to an influential quarter, the contents of which have been forwarded by telegraph to the head-quarters of the King of Prussia, his Majesty has already, on the 1st inst., given orders to Prince Frederick Charles, Commander-in-Chief of the besieging armies before Metz, to give every facility for the General resuming his command of the Guards, and thus restoring to the army of Metz the advantage of his valuable services. General Bourbaki, who has through the same channel received this gratifying intelligence, will, in contradiction to the hazardous conclusion arrived at by the reporter of the "Very Strange Story," pass unhindered through the Prussian lines, to fight again with his well-known gallantry and intelligence.—*Times*.

REDUCED POSTAL TARIFF.

On and after Oct. 1.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION TO THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES.
 Three Months .. 3s. 10d. | Six Months .. 7s. 7d. | Twelve Months .. 15s. 2d.
 (In all cases to be Paid in Advance.)



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1870.

THE NEW POSTAL REGULATIONS.

The Post Office authorities have, in the language of that much-underrated person, the penny-a-liner, again "conferred a boon upon the public" by reducing in certain particulars, one of them rather important, the rate at which they undertake to convey written communications and other matters short of nitro-glycerine, cats'-meat, and ladies' bonnets. There is, however, not much to be said for the boon as a boon. The Post Office is a very flourishing business concern; though a well-organised, by no means a generous one; and it knows pretty well that its new measures will pay. The halfpenny card system can make no such change to the good in the revenue as the penny postage did; but that it will be largely remunerative cannot be doubted.

The halfpenny postal cards will, in the nature of things, be used chiefly for business purposes. An order or a countermand of an order, or any little suddenly-needed instruction, will readily be intrusted to one of these little messengers. Then, in the next place, we may presume that appointments of all kinds, except family appointments and those of lovers, will be largely made by postal cards. Men who pride themselves upon being "point-device" in their preparedness for sudden turns in little events will carry cards about with them always; and then, with the help of an indelible pencil, a message may be written in the street and posted out of hand. The great security against half-private matters communicated or hinted by postal cards becoming known abroad lies in the facts—first, that the postman will have too much to do to study them and show them about, even if the latter would not be, as it would be, a punishable breach of duty; and, secondly, that we are most of us too busy with our own affairs to trouble ourselves about those of our neighbours, except upon rare occasions. Very young lovers may think it romantic now and then to communicate in cipher for a halfpenny; but it is unlikely that those classes of people who do not like to communicate without some words of endearment—husbands and wives, parents and children, brothers and sisters, and sweethearts—will make use of the halfpenny postal-cards. "Dearest, my own,—Just one word, to say I love you more than ever, and that I will be at the place named by three o'clock. Your devoted Algernon." Would any young man send such a message as that open to all the world?

But these halfpenny cards decidedly open a door to low humourists and small-minded, spiteful people. Probably they will be a good deal used on St. Valentine's Day. If it is fun to send a young man a picture of a donkey in an envelope, what must it be to gum one on to an open card and post it to him? Again, we may conceive a coarse joker forwarding, say, four-and-twenty postal cards to a man, informing him in very large letters that he is a duffer; or, if the case be one of spite, the recipient may have to take in a heap of cards telling him anonymously that he is a liar, or a nasty beast, or a "welsher," or what not. This luxury would only cost a shilling.

But what is fun to one person may be death to others, and one cannot help wondering what arrangements have been made to distribute the increased labour which will fall upon the postmen and many of the officials at the Post Office. Of course, all the "halfpenny" cards will not count as an additional demand upon the postmen, because some of them will be simply taking the place of the old penny letters. But the messengers who discharge the important duty of delivering letters are, as we have often insisted, overworked and underpaid at present, and it is most earnestly to be hoped—though the hope is too good to come quite true—that what will be a convenience and a means of economy to so many of us, will not prove an additional burden to the postman, and practically a deduction from his income; in other words, it is to be hoped that more men will be taken on in proportion as it is found they are wanted.

SUFFERERS FROM THE WAR.

Our beloved country has not done badly in the matter of providing aid for the various classes of sufferers from the war on the Continent, for up to this time we have subscribed between £230,000 and £240,000 in hard cash, to say nothing of the really considerable contributions in kind, from lint and morphia to currant jelly. At the same time, we have done no more than our duty; and further demands await us. Even if the war should not continue much longer, there remain immense masses of peasants, workpeople, and others who are, and will be, indirect sufferers. May we venture on a suggestion? In the expenditure of all who write many letters; some saving—in numerous cases, a large saving—will be effected by the introduction of the halfpenny postal cards. If a rough estimate of this saving were made weekly, and if, when the amount became a decent one, it were contributed to one or other of the existing funds connected with the war,

the outcome would be considerable in a month, and in a few months very large indeed. This postal alteration may be considered as a "windfall;" let us all "devote" what we save by it to the purpose in question.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA has sent 5000 thalers for the relief of the distressed inhabitants of Strasbourg. The Queen has contributed 1000 thalers, and liberal subscriptions have been given by other persons throughout Germany.

THE Czar of Russia has conferred upon Baron von Moltke the Order of St. George, the highest military decoration of Russia.

LORD ALFRED PAGET has, it is said, been sent by her Majesty the Queen on a visit of sympathy to the Empress Eugénie, at Chislehurst. She expressed her gratitude for the good feeling exhibited towards her by the public since her arrival in this country.

PRINCE FREDERICK CHARLES is reported to be ill from dysentery. Much sickness appears to exist in the German army before Metz.

THE GRAND DUKE OF NASSAU, who has just been killed by French free-shooters, was fifty-three years old. His name was Adolphus William Augustus Charles Frederick, and, according to the "Almanach de Gotha," he was the representative of the elder line (styled De Walram) of the House of Nassau, a cadet branch of which holds the sovereignty of Holland. He was born on July 24, 1817, the eldest son, by his first marriage, of the late Duke William George Augustus Henry, whom he succeeded in August, 1839.

FIELD MARSHAL SIR J. F. BURGOYNE is confined to his bed by severe illness, in consequence of the great shock he lately experienced by the death of his only son, Captain Hugh Burgoyne, R.N., in command of her Majesty's ship Captain.

THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON HADFIELD has been appointed to the Bishopric of Wellington, vacant by the resignation of the Right Rev. Dr. Abraham.

COLONEL LOYD-LINDSAY, as Chairman of the Fund for the Relief of the Sick and Wounded in War, left town on Tuesday night, with the view of communicating, if possible, with the chief authorities of the Prussian and French armies at Paris on matters of importance connected with the objects and purposes of the society.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE QUEEN OF PRUSSIA'S BIRTHDAY was celebrated, with great rejoicings, at Berlin, on Sept. 30.

THE AMERICAN CONFEDERATE GENERAL BEAUREGARD is said to have received from the French Government a commission to form an army corps in the south of France.

A FLOCK OF FORTY SHEEP, the property of Mr. Minchin, of Norcot Farm, near Reading, strayed near the Great Western Railway, strayed upon the line the other day, and as many as thirty-six of them were killed by an express-train from Bristol.

MR. BARROW, the British Consul at Kertch, reports a fearful outbreak of cholera there. Most of the cases have been very severe, death occurring generally within twelve or fifteen hours. Two victims in an adjoining house died within twelve hours, and a third is now at the point of death. The total mortality up to Sept. 17 was 141 deaths. To the same date a total of 318 cases had been reported, and the recovery of twenty-three was doubtful.

M. FELIX PYAT, who has started a journal in Paris called *La Combat*, proposes a subscription for a musket of honour, to be given to the man who shoots the King of Prussia. There are already 2000 subscribers of one sou each to the testimonial.

THE AMERICAN GENERAL BURNSIDE has gone into Paris from Versailles, to have interviews with Mr. Washburne, the American Minister, and M. Jules Favre.

THE NEW HALF-PENNY CORRESPONDENCE CARD seems to be fully appreciated by the public. The number collected in the E.C. district last Saturday was 235,775; and upwards of 45,000 were p.s. at St. Martin's-le-Grand for the provinces.

ANOTHER EXTENSION OF THE STREET TRAMWAY SYSTEM was brought into operation on Wednesday, the line from Brixton-rose to the Hercules Tavern in Westminster Bridge-road having been opened for traffic. A further portion of the route will be completed by next week.

THE PHILHARMONIC MUSIC-HALL AT RAMSGATE was totally destroyed by fire on Tuesday night. It is supposed that the fire originated in some sparks falling from a miniature ship sent across the stage in flames, at a late hour of the evening, to illustrate the song of "The Ship on Fire," which was part of the programme.

THE DEATH is announced of Mr. William Allen Miller, M.D., F.R.S., Professor of Chemistry at King's College. He died of apoplexy, at Liverpool, whither he had gone to attend the meeting of the British Association. He was fifty-three years of age. From an early period he showed signs of the special talent which has placed him in a high position in the world of science.

TWO WELL-KNOWN ACTRESSES on the French boards—Mlles. Massin and Mignard—have enlisted in the National Guards as cantinières. Several of the male actors have already enlisted either in the National Guards or Mobiles. General Trochu is said to be descended from Racine.

THE EXCHEQUER RECEIPTS from April 1 to the 30th ult. amounted to £30,511,907, as against £34,073,784 for the corresponding period of last year, and less than half the Budget estimate for the whole financial year. The payments for the same period were £33,375,955. The balance standing to the credit of the Government in the Bank of England was £3,040,696.

THE FRENCH POST-OFFICE AUTHORITIES have announced that they will dispatch balloons with private correspondence as regularly as the weather will permit, beginning from Sept. 28. The correspondence must be written on very thin paper, and each letter must be open, and not weigh more than three grammes. It may be four centimetres long by seven centimetres broad, must be addressed outside "By balloon," and must be prepaid at the ordinary rates.

THE SEAT ON THE BENCH AT THE LAMBETH POLICE COURT, rendered vacant by the resignation of Mr. Elliott, has been filled by the appointment of Mr. George Chance, who was a member of the Commission to inquire into the Sheffield Trades Union outrages. Mr. Macnamara, who was appointed to succeed Mr. Selie at the Westminster Court, has, we understand, been already compelled to resign his post owing to delicate health.

A SERIOUS ACCIDENT occurred early on Tuesday morning on the London and North-Western Railway, not far from Crewe. A heavily-laden goods-train was in front of an express, but three miles from where the accident occurred the driver of the latter was cautioned by signal. He, however, overtook the goods-train and a collision took place. A dozen persons were injured, some of them, it is feared, seriously.

THE INQUIRY INTO THE LOSS OF THE CAPTAIN was, on Tuesday, brought to close so far as the evidence is concerned. The survivors of the crew being called on for their defence, Mr. May, the gannet, spoke in their behalf, expressing thanks to the Queen for her sympathetic message, and to the officers and crew of the Lord Warden for their timely assistance. The Court adjourned for the consideration of its judgment, which will probably not be delivered for three or four days.

THE LORD MAYOR, on Monday, laid the memorial-stone of a new Baptist Chapel in Stoke Newington-road, for the use of the congregation at Devonshire-square Chapel, Bishopsgate, which has been sold to the Metropolitan Railway for £11,400. The new chapel will accommodate about 900 persons, the cost, with a residence for the minister which will form part of the block, will be about £7500. Mr. Alderman Cotton, the Rev. W. Rogers, Rector of Bishopsgate, the Rev. T. Binney, Mr. Spurgeon, and other speakers addressed the meeting, and a collection of £151 was made at the conclusion of the proceedings on behalf of the Stockwell Orphanage.

A MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR is reported from Leicester. Last Saturday night a Belgian marble merchant was travelling on the Midland Railway, and when near the Melton Mowbray station, was struck on the head with a stick by a fellow-passenger seated opposite him. A severe struggle took place between them, until the assailant cried for mercy and was released. On the train approaching Brocksby he succeeded in escaping from the carriage, but left a carpet-bag and parcel behind him, which will probably lead to his identity.

THE TOTTENHAM AND HAMPSTEAD JUNCTION RAILWAY—which has long been disused as far as passenger traffic was concerned—has now been turned to account by the Midland Railway, under whose auspices it was opened to the public last Saturday. Passengers can now travel from any station on the Metropolitan or Midland systems, from Kentish Town to the Highgate-road, Upper Holloway, and Crouch-hill stations—the latter being about ten minutes' walk from Crouch-end. The time occupied by the whole journey is twenty-seven minutes from Moorgate street and fifteen from St. Pancras station.

DISTRIBUTION OF PLANTS.—The First Commissioner of her Majesty's Works intends to have distributed this autumn, among the working classes and the poor inhabitants of London, the surplus bedding-out plants in Battersea, Hyde, Regent's, and Victoria Parks, and in the Royal Gardens, Kew. If the clergy, school committees, and others interested will make application to the superintendents of the parks nearest to their respective parishes, or to the director of the Royal Gardens, Kew, in the cases of persons residing in that neighbourhood, they will receive early intimation of the number of plants that can be allotted to each applicant, and of the time and manner of their distribution.

THE LOUNGER.

On Monday, Aug. 22, I left London for Cumberland. Of course I took with me maps of the seat of the war. Determined to be thoroughly furnished, I bought four; and very good serviceable maps they were. They showed me nearly all Germany and Eastern France. What could I want more? There was some talk about the Prussians marching to Paris even then. But I confess I did not realise that notion. A siege of Paris might come; but hardly, I thought, within six or seven weeks. The French surely must rally. It was then not possible to imagine—at least not for me—that the French army and the Empire, but lately, apparently, so strong and compact, so excited with swelling hopes and lofty ambitions, were about suddenly, as if by the shock of an earthquake, to tumble into ruins. However, so it was. On Thursday, Sept. 1, only ten days after I left London, the battle of Sedan was fought; and on Friday, the 2nd, M'Mahon's army capitulated, and the Emperor was a prisoner; and from that day my maps were almost useless. Indeed, my best map—the fullest, and on the largest scale—goes no further westward than Sedan. I mention this little fact of the failure of my map, Mr. Editor, because, though small, it speaks volumes, and is, I venture to say, quite an unprecedented little fact; indeed, in the times when there were no railways, such a fact could not have occurred. We read in history of wonderfully rapid marches and conquests, but of nothing like this. By-the-way, a friend of mine made an odd observation the other day. As we were sitting on Friar's Crag, at the head of Derwentwater, calmly enjoying the scene, the lake at our feet, the Borrowdale Mountains in the distance, and smoking our pipes the while, I casually remarked, "The muse of history has had her work to do lately." "Yes, by Jove!" said my friend; "I should think she must have had to put on a lot of supernumerary clerks." This realistic notion of Clio at the head of a civil service department with a number of clerks under her so tickled my fancy that my lungs, like those of Jaques in "As You Like It," when he heard the motley fool "moral upon the times," began to crow like chanticleer.

In the *Spectator* of last Saturday there was a letter, signed "A. Chaplin," and dated from Polvellan, Looe, Cornwall, which, when I had read it, I stamped at once as "suspect." The letter reports a scene at "our vestry, when the chairman announced the education question to be the next subject for discussion." "There advances (says the writer) a very little man with a very long face, our overseer; with a solemn air, he holds up certain papers and says, 'Gen'l'men [N.B. We are very particular about being called gentlemen, Radical as we profess to be], Gen'l'men, I dunno what these papers mean; you'd best mind what you're adding when you fills 'em up. Mark my words [here the papers are flung upon the table with a tragic air, such as an M.P. might envy], afore long you'll have to educate other people's children as well as your own, and [looking hard at me] there 'll be another rate.' Up starts then a speaker such as Dickens delighted to describe. He enchains the vestry. 'I tell yer what, I'm not agoing to be led by the nose [movement, as the French would say]. I'm a Dissenter. Ah! and I'm a brother in Christ! Would I go for to lay a burden on a poor man's back (sensation); 'tis a hard matter to get bread; let them as is rich pay for the education of the poor (thunders of applause). Gentlemen, gentlemen [emphasising strongly the "gen'l"] indeed! they call themselves to go for to say there shall be a rate, &c.' Very amusing this, Mr. Editor. The scene is, though, I should say, on the face of it, exaggerated. That "Brother in Christ" is very suspicious. It smacks more of thirty years ago than of the present time. But let this pass. The damning fact against this scene is that these Cornish people do not talk in the Cornish dialect, but in that of Bedfordshire, Bucks, and the adjacent counties. Mr. A. Chaplin may be able to explain this anomaly; but, meanwhile, I must provisionally suspect that the scene is a mere fiction.

I was standing at the door of the Swan Hotel, Grasmere, on Saturday last, in the evening, waiting for the Keswick coach, when a carriage passed. "Who's carriage is that?" I asked of the landlord. "Mr. Orred's," was the reply; "and the gentleman with him is Mr. Lowe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He has just come by the train to Windermere." "Mr. Orred," said I; "who is Mr. Orred?" "Mrs. Lowe's brother." And, on turning to Debbert when I got to my lodgings at Keswick, I found it there stated that the Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1836 married the daughter of George Orred, Esq., of Aigburgh House, Liverpool, the father of the gentleman who lives at Grasmere. The house of Mr. Orred is on the brow of a mountain range which culminates in Fairfield—a mountain well known to tourists; and a more beautiful situation for a house cannot be imagined. It commands the whole valley of Grasmere, with the hills around. Very pleasant it must be for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to be there, in such a tranquil scene, far away from the turmoil of political life; and all the more so as the last quarter's Revenue returns show that the receipts have far exceeded his prognostications. A successful statesman reposing in such a beautiful, tranquil scene—can any position be more enviable?

I hope all have read the evidence given before the court-martial which has investigated the loss of the Captain. It corroborates to the letter what I wrote upon that subject a fortnight ago. The ship was built in opposition to the advice of the Constructor of the Navy, the Controller, every Sea Lord on the Board, and, indeed, every man of experience and education in naval architecture connected with the Admiralty. In fact, the First Lord seems to have said, not perhaps, in so many words, to Captain Cowper Coles:—"Then, go, and build or get built, without control, on your plan, just such a ship as you like." The excuse for this is that the First Lord could not withstand the force of public opinion which had been brought to bear upon him. And, no doubt, this was very strong. For many years the agitation has been going on. Almost every newspaper in the kingdom has by assiduous blowing contributed to its force, until, at last, everybody who expressed an opinion that in such a matter the authority of educated, experienced men ought to decide was adjudged to be a partisan or a fool. "Captain Cowper Coles," I heard a well-known member shout, in the House of Commons, "is a man of genius, and not a mere red-tape official." Well, no doubt he was a man of genius; and, if he had been regularly educated as a naval architect, it cannot be doubted that he would have shone conspicuously in his profession. But, whatever untutored genius may be able to do in the way of writing poems or novels, it cannot be safely trusted to build ships, any more than it can be safely trusted to command a fleet or perform a surgical operation. That silent, unbending man the Duke of Somerset, when he was First Lord, turned a deaf ear to all the agitation. True, it had not been blown up to such a storm as it afterwards was; but my opinion of the noble Duke is that no storm would ever have blown him from his moorings. But in 1866 his Lordship went out of office, and the Conservatives came in, and soon afterwards the order was given; and, on looking back, one can hardly see how they could have done otherwise, for they had committed themselves to Captain Coles and his plan. They had, indeed, as all who have watched the agitation, used the Captain turret-ship as a stalking-horse from behind which they were ever pouring shot into the ranks of their opponents. But still, if they were bound to give the thing a fair trial, they might have and ought to have insisted, as a *sine qua non*, that the plans should be drawn by their own officers, and that the ship should be built under their control. If that had been done, no doubt Captain Coles's plan must and would have been modified, and certainly that astonishing blunder in the height of the freeboard would not have occurred.

What a "lucky fellow" King Victor Emmanuel is! or, putting the matter a little differently, let us say, what a favoured people the Italians are! Everybody else's trouble redounds to their advantage; all things work together for their good; and I think

his Holiness would do well to consider, with what help his infallibility may give him, whether it would not be wise to make hearty friends with a nation on whose side Fortune—or whatever other power he pleases—so manifestly is. Just recall events for a few brief years, and say if there be not clear indications that Italy ought to be ranked among the most favoured of nations. The Crimean War afforded the then Kingdom of Piedmont and Sardinia an opportunity of taking a prominent place among European Powers; the Austro-French War of 1859 gave the Italians the valuable province of Lombardy; in 1860, popular votes added Tuscany, Modena, Parma, and the Romagna; Garibaldi's bold dash in the same year won Sicily and Naples; the struggle between Austria and Prussia, in 1866, eventuated in Italy's receiving a gift of Venetia; and now the war between France and Germany has enabled her to "crown the edifice" by the disestablishment of the Pope, the acquisition of Rome, and the completion of the national unity. Truly, a wonderful succession of Fortune's favours, and all with comparatively very little effort on the part of the Italians themselves! This completion of the Italian kingdom, if we but think of it, is a most stupendous event—an event which, occurring at a less stirring time, would have filled the world with astonishment; and yet it has been accomplished in an exceedingly quiet way, with almost no bloodshed, and, out of Italy, with little notice beyond a few leading articles in the London newspapers, some consternation among the Roman Catholics of Ireland, and a few impotent denunciations from Archbishop Manning and the Popish clergy in England. With what may be the ultimate effects of this great revolution—for a great revolution it unquestionably is—I shall not concern myself just now, further than to remark, first, that it ought to enable Italy to reduce her army, and so, by curtailing her expenditure, make possible the adjustment of her finances—the great difficulty she has hitherto had to contend with; and, second, that the Pope, disestablished, and possibly very speedily to be disendowed also, must now revert to his proper position, confine himself to the exercise of his proper functions—those of the spiritual government of his flock—and so become really and truly a Prince whose kingdom is not of this world. In that capacity I verily do believe he will be infinitely more influential, as well as infinitely more useful, than when cumbered with the cares of this world and the burden of temporal sovereignty. For my part, I congratulate his Holiness on his deliverance, though I dare say he will scarcely relish the congratulation; and I congratulate, also, the friends of pure religion and of intellectual freedom on the grand step made in disconnecting the Church from the State—a work that must go on till that unholy alliance is everywhere abolished. While, however, one rejoices at the completion of Italian unity, one cannot help feeling that there is something wanting to the perfection of the event. Where, at such a time, are Joseph Mazzini and Joseph Garibaldi—the man of thought and the man of action, the head and the hand of Italian liberty and unity? The one is mewed in an Italian prison, and the other is kept a prisoner also on his lone island of Capraia. It is not well, rulers of Italy, that your country's two greatest living sons—the men who have done most towards accomplishing the event you are now celebrating—should be caged birds when Italy's unity is achieved. Look to it that they be speedily liberated, and placed in their proper place among you.

You will have noticed, I dare say, that all the newspaper correspondents with the German armies have made mention of the wonderful marching power and general capacity for enduring fatigue exhibited by the German infantry soldiers, and especially by those of Prussia. This need excite no surprise, however, when we remember that athletic exercises form a regular portion of school and college training in Prussia, and I suppose in other parts of Germany also. The work of the gymnasium is as strictly attended to as that of the class-room; and the result is that the youth of Prussia are not only rendered intelligent, but vigorous and muscular likewise. The military drill which all Germans must now undergo includes athletic exercises too; the work begun at school is continued and completed in the barrack-yard, and a race of men, with muscles like iron, which nothing seems to tire, is the product. And be it remembered that physical hardihood is not confined to one order of society: it is common to all—to the peasant, the scion of the middle class, the student, and the noble. A hint is here furnished to the future managers of national education at home; a "lesson of the war," to use a phrase now common, is afforded that ought to be turned to good account. Let a *g* be added to the three *rs*—gymnastics to "reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic"—in our school curriculum, and a manifest improvement will be effected in the physiques as well as in the minds of future generations of "Britishers." In illustration of what I have said above I may mention that, a few years ago, I had the pleasure—and profit too—of being intimate with a German gentleman then connected with the newspaper press of London, who had, if I remember rightly, studied at Heidelberg, where he was thoroughly trained intellectually and physically, and in consequence was a perfect athlete both in mind and body. There were few subjects of which my friend was not master, and, though of comparatively small stature, I am convinced that there were few men not professional wrestlers whom he could not have mastered in a trial of strength. This was the result of early training, and, as he assured me, was in no way exceptional: he was just like the rest of his countrymen. He is now, I believe, engaged in the arduous task of indoctrinating Germany with sound views on free trade and political economy generally; and I trust that his iron frame will long sustain his vigorous intellect in carrying on the good work.

One thing strikes me as rather singular in connection with the siege of Paris, and of which I should like to have some explanation, if it be capable of explanation. It is usually estimated that a besieging force should be about three times as numerous as that which it besieges. Now, these conditions seem to be very nearly reversed in the case of Paris, and yet the siege is maintained. So far as I have been able to make out, there are not more than 300,000 Germans before the French capital; the partisans of France, both within Paris and without, estimate the troops under the command of General Trochu at not less than 600,000. Then why don't the 600,000 drive off the 300,000, instead of submitting to be cooped up in the way they are? That's what I want to know. Can anybody tell me? Of course I am aware that General Trochu's men are mostly new levies, whereas the Germans are by comparison seasoned veterans; but then he has had nearly two months to lick his men into shape (he was appointed Governor of Paris early in August); and two to one is long odds. He has, moreover, the choice of points of attack on a line over thirty miles in extent; and ought to be able, if the statement of the numbers he commands be anything like correct, to throw overwhelming forces on any given spot. Were Marshal Bazaine's case like General Trochu's, how long do you think he would stay in Metz to dine upon horseflesh? The troops under Bazaine's command number somewhere about 80,000 or 90,000; and Prince Frederick Charles requires about 250,000 to keep him shut up. If affairs were reversed—if Bazaine had the 250,000 and Prince Frederick Charles only the 80,000 or 90,000, would not Bazaine precious soon break out? Then look at Strasbourg. The garrison of that stronghold numbered about 18,000 men, half of whom were National and Mobile Guards; while General Werder must have had over 70,000 besieging the place, for we are told that he can send off, now the city has surrendered, about 65,000 men and keep 8000 as a garrison. Had the case at Strasbourg been like that at Paris, would General Ulrich have endured the siege an hour? Again I ask, why don't the 600,000 Frenchmen inside Paris sally forth and lick the 300,000 Germans outside?

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

What a splendid number is the *Cornhill*! "Harry Richmond," though a little strained and fantastic, is full of life and poetic humour. The most important paper is the one on "Nursing

as a Profession"—a profession remunerative, and on the same kind of basis as a doctor's, as distinguished from a mere pursuit. It is certainly a good idea. Why should there not be recognised as a professional body ladies of high culture, like physicians, trained to nurse scientifically; and not overpaid, as this writer suggests, at three guineas a day? These would be the nurses of the first class. There would, of course, be nurses of other classes, earning much lower fees, and there would still be the Sister of Charity in all the different forms in which she is at present known, and perhaps in others. But let the reader turn to the essay itself, and see how much there is to be said for the idea. The essay on "Quarrelling" also is good—very good. But the "touching passage in a poem by Coventry Patmore" does not (if I am right in fixing upon the lines) refer to quarrels between friends, but to conjugal regrets after death. In Mr. Patmore's "Faithful for Ever," the hero, in despair at being rejected by the woman whom he loved, goes and marries a woman very unfit to be his wife. In a letter from his mother occur the following beautiful lines:—

She's cold. Put to the coffin lid.
What distance for another did,
That death has done for her! The good,
Once gazed upon with heedless mood,
Now fills with tears the fabled eye,
And turns all else to vanity.

How great her smallest virtue seems,
How small her greatest fault! Ill dreams
Were those that foiled with loftier grace
The homely kindness of her face.
'Twas here she sat and worked, and there
She comb'd and kiss'd the children's hair;
Or with one baby at her breast,
Another taught, or hushed to rest.

No magic of her voice or smile
Raised in a trice a fairy isle,
But fondness for her underwent
An unregarded increment,
Like that which lifts through centuries
The coral-reef within the seas,
Till, lo! the land where was the wave.
Alas! 'tis everywhere her grave.

These couplets I have much abbreviated. It is not easy to read them without tears, and almost impossible to read them aloud at all.

In *Temple Bar* the inexhaustible William Gilbert is writing in his usual vein of intense naturalness. Highly amusing are the "Letters from India," by the late Hon. Emily Eden. "The Battle of Legnano," by Sir Edward Creasy, is of deep interest at the present time—the unity of Italy, with Rome for the capital, was accomplished before Sir Edward's paper was well in type. "Germany Under War" is a "Correspondent's" account of the fighting before Metz in August. It is lifelike and natural; but when I read, "What Count Moltke once said will come true, 'No gunshot must be fired in Europe without the consent of Germany,'" I simply observe that I don't believe Moltke ever made such an absurd speech.

The *Gentleman's Magazine* is a capital number. The monthly "Roll of Honour" is a good idea, and the "Notes and Incidents" at the end do what I think every magazine should accomplish—keep itself familiar with the by-currents of affairs. But here is Mr. Blanchard Jerrold as unlucky as ever on the war, in a paper entitled "The Sick Lion." Now, who do you think "The Sick Lion" is? Give it up? Well, it is the present Emperor Napoleon—I say present, because he has not yet been deposed in form. Mr. Blanchard Jerrold has heard that Victor Hugo's hatred of Napoleon was born of the fact that the Emperor snubbed him one day when he first came into power. When Mr. Jerrold heard this he was "very much impressed by the vraisemblance of the surroundings." Really, now? In spite of the vein of weak sentiment which runs through this article, Mr. Jerrold is perfectly right in expressing his disgust at the manner in which those who, two months ago, either flattered the Emperor or at least acquiesced in him, have now turned round and vilified him. There is no reason why those who have consistently abhorred the Man of December should not openly rejoice at the event which in their view has rid Europe of an unfathomable curse; but the Parisian mob smashing Imperial busts, and M. About and the rest spitting in the face of the man whom, a short while ago, they were hailing as a "Caesar," is a sight to degrade Europe in her own eyes. Mr. Blanchard Jerrold sheds tears over the Emperor's downfall as a soldier:—"I am much mistaken in my estimate of the character and genius of Louis Napoleon, if it has not been the passionate hope of his life to be as great a warrior as his uncle." And now, "his sorrow's crown of sorrows . . . his unutterable woe, which is lead upon his heart, is that he has failed, utterly failed, in the field." I beg leave to present Mr. Blanchard Jerrold with a parody of his pathetic lament:—"I am very much mistaken in my estimate of the character and genius of Bill Sikes, if it had not been the passionate hope of his life to be as great a burglar as Jack Sheppard. And now, his sorrow's crown of sorrows, his unutterable woe, which is lead upon his heart, is that he has failed, utterly failed, in breaking into a house." Then, again, Mr. Jerrold reminds the world that the poor Emperor was "deceived." He deserved to be deceived, because he gagged the press and stifled criticism. Every utterance of Mr. Cardwell's is criticised by a hundred pens within a few days. And that is how it ought to be.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The HOLBORN melodrama is a patchwork affair, interesting, no doubt, to those who have no soul above tinsel, but absolutely deplorable to those who care for some purpose in a play. I am almost ashamed to say over again what has been said so frequently before and so truthfully. Let me trace the thing from the beginning. When I was a boy at school, and confined to my bed with rheumatic fever, I read in the idle hours of convalescence a novel called "Clement Lorrimer; or, The Book with the Iron Clasp." Here I find the suggestion on which Mr. Boucicault built "The Flying Scud." This was a one-situation play. Thanks to the admirable acting of Mr. George Belmore, a complete success was made out of one situation, for, taking the drama as a whole, a more worthless piece has seldom been presented. I find the old "Clement Lorrimer" situation in Mr. Sefton Parry's original drama called "The Odds." The first portion of the drama is a ludicrous imitation of "The Flying Scud" until it branches off into a railway-train situation adapted from the Müller murder. It is quite evident that the play was built up merely to introduce these two old situations; and as the audiences at the Holborn have hitherto received both with yells of delight, it is very probable that we shall have plenty more of such plays. What, after all, does the public care if the Rev. C. Carlos Clerk, an admirable sporting writer, sent in a sporting drama to the Holborn, or that another gentleman sent in a railway drama, or that a successful writer cares to polish up the dialogue to order? The new and original drama by Mr. Sefton Parry is a great success, and any manager with a great success in his pocket can afford to snap his fingers in the face of anyone who calls his statements in question. I quite grant that "The Odds" is a success. It is a daring, impertinent success. It is a success from furnishing up old materials and setting Mr. Julian Hicks to work to paint some telling scenery. But will Mr. Sefton Parry boldly come forward and pride himself on a piece which will bring everlasting credit to the stage, and own that it is a play in which all his artists delight to appear? I do not think he will do anything of the kind. It is a vulgar melodrama, which is well suited to the ordinary run of vulgar folk who patronise theatres. To give anything better at the Holborn would be merely wasting time and what is evidently of more consequence—money. Something better was tried by Mr. Barry Sullivan, and it failed dismally. So vice Sefton Parry,

toy-horses, sham steeplechases, real railway-trains, and the dreadful smartness which is passing for good writing for the stage! Sheridan's "School for Scandal," admirably acted; "The Gamster," very well played, in parts; Lovell's "Love's Sacrifice," &c., all failed at the Holborn. "The Flying Scud" succeeded; and because "The Odds" is an infinitely inferior play, I have no doubt it will succeed ten times as much. There is no accounting for taste, and it is mere waste of time to attempt to point out that "The Odds," merely regarded as a melodrama, is bad. I have no dislike to melodrama. I like it immensely; but I am pained to see occasionally how pertinaciously the public support vice at the expense of virtue. The critics are, of course, all banded together to persuade the public that "The Odds" is very bad; whereas "The Odds" is very good. This, no doubt, will be the managerial argument, seeing that the critics have unanimously condemned the play and the public has, so far, patronised it. But I wonder what the ladies and gentlemen think who have devoted a lifetime to perfecting themselves in the rare art of acting. What, for instance, does an actress like Miss Lydia Foote feel—a lady who can think, and who is compelled to play third fiddle to the scene-painter and train-mechanic? What does Miss Hughes think, who nobly and disinterestedly takes a fourth-rate comic character? What does Mr. Parselle think, who gets a bit of character and, of course, makes the most of it? Indeed, what do they all think, clever little Miss Kate Bishop and all—sensible people, who have the makings of first-rate actors in them? Are not they just a little bit ashamed of "The Odds"? I expect so, but I will say no more. The play is successful; the play draws; the play makes excitement, and, therefore, those who wish for something better are either fools or dishonest men. I hear that the railway-engine works very much better than it did on the first night. This fact will no doubt cause great excitement in the society of playgoers. These, after all, are the props of the tumbling drama.

Mr. Arthur Sketchley has written for the STRAND a three-act comedy, called "Living at Ease," which goes uncommonly well, because it is more a farce than a comedy. It is an ingenious farce, constructed with some skill, and is, on the whole, unpretentious, and not unamusing. In a comedy we generally understand that some attempt will be made to introduce sparkling dialogue and a reflection in some sort of way of everyday life; but no attempt at clever dialogue has been made in "Living at Ease." I cannot help admiring the ingenuity of the construction; but I appear to be looking at a skeleton, and long for the clothes. The story is not particularly new; and, seeing that the play was evidently written for other people, it goes uncommonly well at the Strand. Mr. Crouch does his best for Mr. Charles Mathews, Miss Swanborough takes the place of Mrs. Charles, Mr. Turner is a substitute for Mr. Frank Matthews, and Mrs. Raymond is so extremely good that I really do not miss Mrs. Frank. The first act is decidedly dull, the second full of bustle, and the third has much more in it than in most wind-up third acts. In a word, the construction is decidedly clever, the incidents are farcical, and the dialogue is poor. Mr. Crouch is rapidly improving; Miss Ada Swanborough is far better than usual, and Mrs. Raymond is admirable. I think the play will go very well.

The best circus we have had in London for many a year is now at the AMPHITHEATRE, Holborn. Such a shilling's worth is not to be found in London, and a pleasanter lounge it would be difficult to discover. Fancy getting Price, the famous Cirque Impériale clown, from Paris; such riders as Mdlle. Chiarini and Mr. Alfred Bradbury; such eccentric fellows as the Brothers Lavater Lee, and a performing elephant to boot! I delight in a circus, and I sat the whole thing out and wished for more.

At the POLYTECHNIC, Mr. Pepper has taken advantage of current events to introduce, in addition to the usual programme, a "lecture-entertainment" (whatever that may be) on "The Present War and the Implements of Destruction used thereat."

PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE OF NAPOLEON III.

THE first instalment of documents found among the correspondence and papers of the Imperial family was published in the Paris official journal on Sept. 25. The Government has believed it to be its duty to publish these documents without commentary and with that impartiality which appertains to history. The importance of four of these papers prompts us to publish them at least in part. The first of them only proves too plainly the facts so often affirmed by the men who have at present the honour to preside over the government of the country. It is a letter addressed by M. Jecker to M. Conte, Chef du Cabinet of Napoleon III.:

Paris, Dec. 8, 1869.

Sir,—Do you not think it strange that I prefer addressing myself to you, having to draw your attention to an affair which particularly concerns the Emperor? You will have heard enough about my affair of the Treasury bonds to know something about it. Very well; I think the Government are treating it with too much indifference, and if they do not pay attention unpleasantness to the Emperor will arise from it. You are, no doubt, ignorant of the fact that my partner in this affair was M. le Duc de Morny, who had undertaken, in consideration of 30 per cent of the profits in the affair, to cause it to be acknowledged and paid by the Mexican Government, as had been the case from the beginning. Upon this subject there exists a voluminous correspondence with his agent, M. de Marpon. In January of 1861 these gentlemen sent me to treat of this affair. This arrangement was come to when my house was already in liquidation, so that everything regarding it belonged exclusively to it. As soon as this arrangement was concluded, I was thoroughly supported by the French Government and its Legation at Mexico. The latter had even assured my creditors, in the name of France, that the bonds would be fully paid, and had addressed very strongly-worded notes to the Mexican Government upon the subject of the fulfilment of my contract with them, and to the extent that the ultimatum of 1862 required the fulfilment, *par et simple*, of the decrees. Since that period I have been constantly exposed to the hatred of the party in power, who threw me into prison and finally banished me, after confiscating my property. The affair remained in this state until the occupation of Mexico by the French. Under the Emperor Maximilian, and at the instance of the French Government, the settlement of my affair was again taken into consideration. In August, 1863, I succeeded, aided by the French agents, in coming to an arrangement with the Mexican Government. At that period it happened that M. le Duc de Morny died, so that the powerful protection that the French Government had accorded to me ceased completely.

A letter by Napoleon first hints at the secret treaty. Among the letters and projects dictated by Napoleon to his Chef du Cabinet the following letter figures. It throws a light on the designs and the proceedings of the Imperial policy (without date):—

If France is to boldly adopt the doctrines of nationality, it is necessary to maintain henceforth that there is no Belgian nationality with the French nationality, and to establish this essential point with the French nation. On the other hand, the Cabinet of Berlin, being disposed to enter into such arrangements as it may suit France to entertain with it, there will be occasion to negotiate a secret treaty which will bind both parties. Without relying on this treaty being a perfectly sure guarantee, it would have the double advantage of compromising Prussia and of being for her a proof of the sincerity of the policy and intentions of the Emperor. It is recommended not to hide from ourselves, so long as one knows the character of the King of Prussia and of his Prime Minister, the fact that the late diplomatic incidents, as well as the actual tendencies of public opinion in France, must have opened their eyes to the circumstance that we have not ceased to claim the frontier of the Rhine. To make sure of meeting with the confidence which is necessary for the maintenance of intimate *entente* we must employ ourselves in dissipating those apprehensions which have always been fostered by the expectation of this eventuality, and the apprehensions which have also been awakened by our late communications. These results cannot be attained by words; there must be an act (and one which would consist in determining the ultimate fate of Belgium) in concert with Prussia; by proving at Berlin that the Emperor is really looking elsewhere than on the Rhine for that extension necessary to France. After the events which have recently transpired in Germany this will gain for us at least a relative certainty that the Prussian Government will not place any obstacle in the way of our aggrandisement in the north.

A second batch of the Imperial private correspondence has been printed. One item is a receipt of 10,000*fr.* on account of 30,000*fr.* allowed by the Emperor for furniture for Baron Jérôme David.

WAR SKETCHES.

OUTSIDE STRASBOURG DURING SEPT. 4.

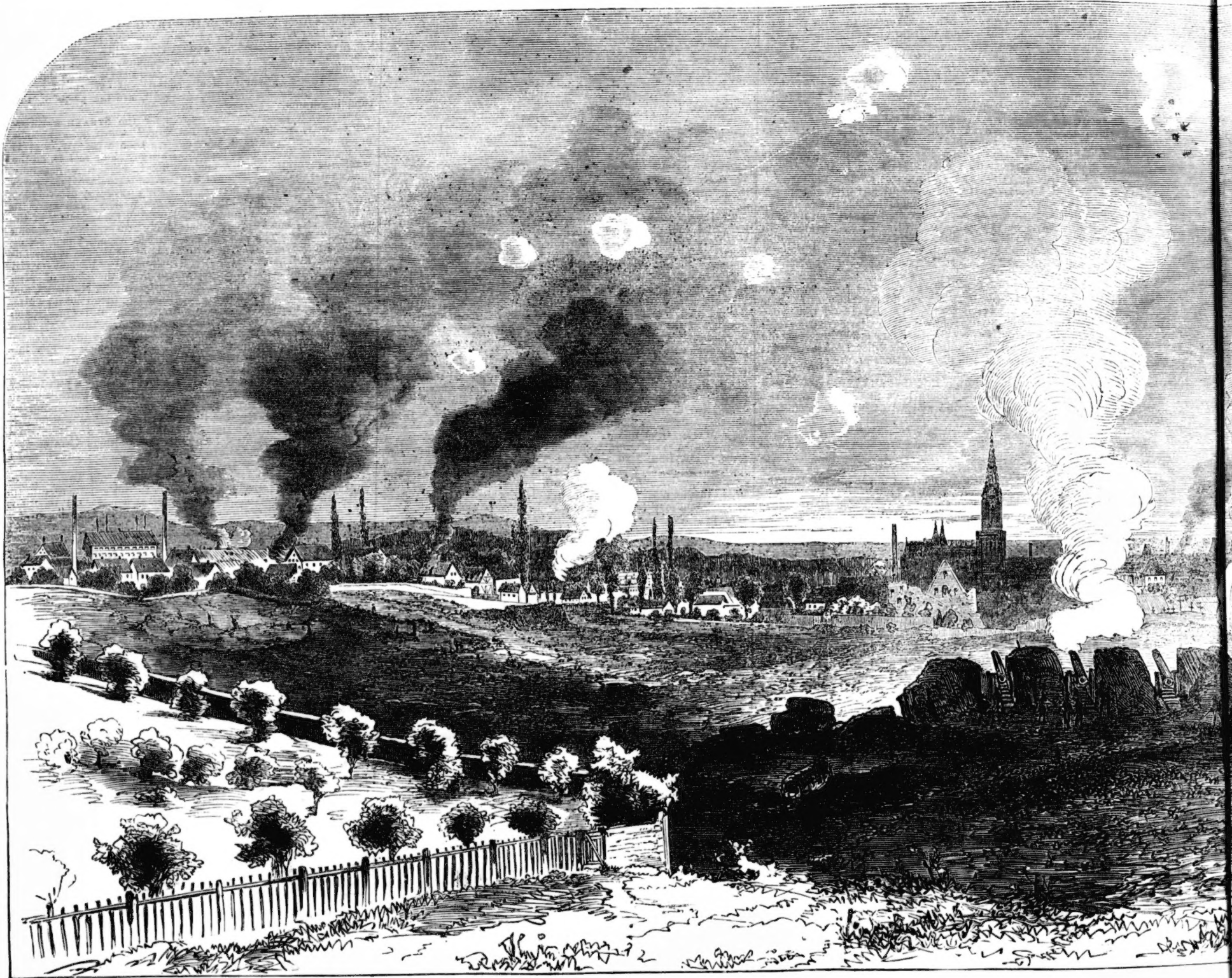
The uncertainty which existed as to the fate of the grand old cathedral turrets and the wonderful clock of Strasbourg has now been happily dispelled, since both have been preserved with but little injury, even after the terrific bombardment to which the place was subject during the days before its capitulation and in the operations which took place early in September. Our Engraving represents the aspect of the siege works outside the town from the battery which kept up such a continuous fire. For some days previous to Sept. 4. heavier guns had been placed in position and new batteries were prepared; and though, on the 3rd, the French endeavoured to make a sally in force, and actually arrived at the third parallel and drove the German troops out of the trenches, they were forced back again after a hand-to-hand engagement, and had to retreat to the city between a cross fire from the batteries which opened on them as they passed through the gate. That night the bombardment was very severe, and it continued during the following day, the principal fire having been brought to bear upon the portion of the works adjoining the station of the railway to Paris. A spectator during the bombardment says:—"The fire of the German artillerymen was much better sustained than that of the French—the former poured a continuous stream of cannon-balls and shells into the fortifications. At intervals the French

replied by a simultaneous fire, continuing it for several minutes together, and then pausing, as if to concentrate their energies for another combined effort." Our Illustration will indicate the position of the batteries, and will also serve to show how difficult it was to estimate the amount of injury inflicted before the capitulation, in consequence of there being no rising ground from which to view the entire city.

INSIDE STRASBOURG ON SEPT. 29.

At six o'clock on Thursday morning, Sept. 29, I was on my way towards Strasbourg. Passing through Schiltigheim, I saw tokens in every quarter of the severity of the fire from the fortifications. Hardly a house was untouched. A large number had been burned to the ground, and many were converted into piles of ruins by the explosion of shells. The direct road to Strasbourg was crossed by the parallels, and it was necessary to walk along the first parallel nearly a mile before coming to the pathway along which access to the city was alone possible. The destruction at the Austerlitz railway station, lying outside the city, was thorough. Shortly after the siege began this station was captured by the besiegers. Near this place more than one severe fight occurred when the garrison made a sortie. The fire from one of the mortar batteries was concentrated upon this station, and the numerous carriages which once stood on the line had been converted into heaps of charred wood and twisted iron. On approaching the Porte Saverne I saw countless marks indicating the

severity of the fire which the besiegers had directed towards this spot. Between this and the Porte de Pierre the walls have been breached in two places. After I had passed through the gate the spectacle of destruction which I witnessed was one I shall not soon forget. On the right as far as I could see the whole quarter was a pile of rubbish. There were few marks of fire. Cannon shot and shells had reduced house after house into their original elements. When the space between Temple Bar and Carey-street on which the new Law Courts are to be erected was being cleared of houses the appearance presented was not dissimilar; but there was this difference, that in the case of the houses removed from that site there were signs of regularity in the midst of the destruction, the walls were systematically removed, whereas in Strasbourg the ruined houses were literally piles of rubbish, and unless I had known that houses had once covered the spot, I should not have supposed that the rubbish had ever taken the form of shapely dwellings. In front of nearly every shop window were sloping planks arranged with a view to ward off falling shot. All the openings made to admit air and light into the cellars were covered with a mass of earth and straw. In some cases the straw had evidently been taken from the most offensive, though not the least useful, part of the farmyard. The deprivation of light and air and the presence of noisome smells which those who occupied the cellars must have had to endure must have been, not only a severe trial, but also most detrimental to health. One house standing at a corner



CONVENT GARDEN.

GLACES.

CATHEDRAL.

PRUSSIAN 24-POUNDER BATTERY.

PANORAMIC VIEW OF STRASBOURG DURING THE BOMBARDMENT.

destroyed some without injuring the pins with which they were pierced. The birds were lying about in shapeless heaps. Here lay a quantity of feathers, there a number of beaks and legs. Several were untouched. The proprietor of the house said that the collection belonged to a lodger, who had spent upwards of fifteen years in making it. The proprietor of the house took his own misfortune very philosophically. He fully expected to be reimbursed for the loss he had sustained. So long as he was paid, it mattered not to him whether Strasbourg remained in the hands of the Germans or passed again into those of the French. Others to whom I talked indulged in a different strain. While lamenting the injuries inflicted, they were confident that the end had not arrived. They looked forward to a second bombardment. They were convinced that the French would soon drive out the Germans and recapture the city. For this belief they could assign no other reason than that France had done great things in 1793 and would repeat her former achievements. This is an opinion which appears to be accepted by all Frenchmen as if it were an article of faith. But I have observed that those who talk the most about 1793 do not show any alacrity in sacrificing themselves now, although the emergency is as great as it then was. Where the heroes of 1870 are to be discovered I know not. It is also noteworthy that those who are ready to foretell what France will yet perform are not less ready to admit that the French army was composed of bad materials as well as commanded by incapable officers. Prior to the battle of Weissenburg the regiments who encamped near Strasbourg manifested an entire want of discipline. The soldiers plundered the inhabitants of the surrounding villages; they begged for money in the

streets of Strasbourg, and they threatened to take by force that which was refused them. It is difficult to discover any reason for hoping that any army which may be formed in France will be at all superior to that which acted so badly and has been beaten so thoroughly.

When I made a round of the walls I had the good fortune to make the acquaintance of the officer who commanded the battery which effected the breach. He was curious to witness the results of his own handiwork. The one breach is in the bastion numbered 11; the other in bastion 12. Both these points face the lunettes which were captured a week ago. The breach in the bastion 12 was chiefly made by vertical fire. The other was the result of direct fire. The breach in bastion 11 was the more important of the two. It was about 200 ft. wide at the top. Another twenty-four hours of heavy firing would have completed all that the besiegers intended to do before delivering the assault. Indeed, everything was ready. The materials wherewith to bridge the moat were collected at Bischheim. The soldiers had been ordered to hold themselves ready to move forward at a moment's notice. That the place would have been captured is certain; but that the loss of life would have been great is certain also. It is fortunate that the end has been less bloody than was anticipated. Governor Ulrich and the garrison have distinguished themselves by the bravery of their defence; and that the Germans have shown how skilfully they can lay siege to a powerful fortress no one can dispute.

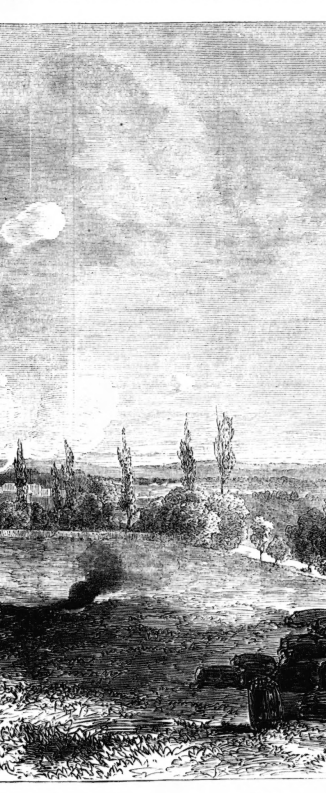
With one deplorable exception, the inhabitants of Strasbourg have treated their conquerors with great consideration. On Sept. 29 three soldiers were shot in a by-street near the cathedral. The assassins fled. One of them was pursued by some citizens who witnessed the

deed. He took refuge in the Café de Commerce. There he was detained till the German soldiers arrived. The citizens who were present specially called their attention to the fact that not only did they repudiate all complicity with the murderers, but that they had done their utmost to hinder their escape. As soon as General Werder heard the tidings he ordered the city to pay a heavy contribution, and he threatened to treat the inhabitants with the greatest rigour, and to humiliate them by making a triumphal entry into their city with his whole army. However, when the Mayor represented that the blame could not fairly be placed on the inhabitants, and when he was convinced that the act was entirely the work of isolated ruffians, he cancelled the orders he had given, and relieved the city from paying the enormous contribution of four millions of francs.—*Correspondent of Daily News.*

Strasbourg is recovering with wonderful rapidity from the siege. The shops are open, and buying and selling going on in the market-place. The bridge over the Rhine will be opened for railway traffic in about a fortnight.

BAD BEHAVIOUR OF SOLDIERS OF THE GARRISON.
It is stated "on the highest authority" that one of the causes which most determined the surrender of Strasbourg before an assault had been delivered was the insubordination of the troops of the garrison. Of course, such a fact can only be accepted upon French evidence, but the statement is corroborated by the behaviour of the French soldiery after the Germans had been asked to grant them terms of capitulation. The commissioners appointed by General Ulrich to negotiate the surrender were received in the German camp with full military honours,

entered the city. Batter was again placed on the table. It was announced that milk would be obtainable on the morrow. The people were told that the cathedral was the only one among the first. To all external appearance it is un injured. The interior is in a state of ruin. The roof is in places more places than one. The cross on its summit appears to have been blown by a violent wind. It is but one mile. Some of the ornamental work has been preserved, at least in some places. The stone star has been destroyed. The outer roof of the nave has been blown off. The interior of the nave is in a state of ruin. But the famous clock has escaped destruction, and the cathedral is on the point of being blown down. The people are in a state of haste as soon as they get here. They accused the tower, they said, of being the cause of the destruction. They said that they saw the renowned cathedral, but also to learn the truth as to the damage done to it. All within one conversed, expressed their satisfaction that the cathedral was not destroyed. They said that they would have lamented the destruction of the cathedral quite as sincerely as they would have lamented the destruction of the city. The destruction of the cathedral was one of the signs of the besiegers. They said that they would have been in a state of haste to see the city given not only to spare the city, but also carefully to avoid firing in such a way as would either damage or endanger the cathedral. Other people said that they would have been in a state of haste to see the city given not only to spare the city, but also carefully to avoid firing in such a way as would either damage or endanger the cathedral.

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has already been so completely described in our pages that we can only refer our readers to previous numbers for an account of the scene represented in our sketch of that terrible conflict. The Engraving will, however, supply the required illustration of that series of pictorial records of the great war which will be found in our columns, and may be valuable for reference when the history of the campaign can be studied with full appreciation of its most remarkable events.

This scene is somewhat stale, we must confess, for it occurred before the commencement of the siege, and when the French troops were first assembling in the city that was to have been their starting-point on the promenade to Berlin. But the truth is that this is the point from which the Engraving has been made, and it is in transit and in transit only, that the most pressing matters. It may still be useful, however, in showing in how different feather the troops went into Metz from that in which they are likely to come out. Then they had abundance of everything in the shape of supplies; but we dare say the ideas of those soldiers who are so laden with baggage, and who, at this time, if they are to be any use, must undergo a decided change, and it is not improbable that most of them would be inclined to barter their share of glory for a loaf of bread and safety, if such terms were open for their acceptance.

THE remarkable history here recently made in the *Journal* on the manner in which the infection of scarlatina is communicated from person to person, as a result of ignorance and neglect, has led the writer to publish the following account of a case which has furnished important communications on the subject. One from Dr. George Johnson, the Professor of Medicine in King's College, London, is written in the following words: "I have the honor to acknowledge the attention of your readers to the preventive causes of scarlet fever, for I am sure that in doing so you are doing a good service. I have been convinced that the spread of this formidable disease is, in a vast number of instances, the result of gross culpability, and that the infection of the disease is not communicated by scarlet fever is highly contagious; it is doubtful whether it ever results from any other cause, although, as you observe, it may be conveyed from one person to another by the source of infection. Overcrowding and defective ventilation unquestionably favour the rapid spread of the disease, and it is not surprising that in such cases there should be no reason to impute any special connection between scarlatina and filth, bad drainage, or impure water. The disease is often communicated by the contact of the patient within a few days after getting into lodgings by the seaside. The explanation of this is not difficult to find. A contagious eruption, such as scarlet fever, is not difficult to catch, but the patient is convalescent, but while the skin is still peeling and thus throwing off poisonous elements, he goes by the

and railway to the seaside, infecting the public carriages on his way, and, finally, infecting the bed and furniture of his lodging. The proprietor of the lodging knows nothing of any infection; therefore, no disinfecting process is adopted, and the next occupants of the lodgings take the disease. It is obviously the duty of persons who take a convalescent into a lodging while there is still risk of infection to state the facts of the case beforehand, and to make arrangements for the subsequent disinfection of the bedding and furniture. A lodging-house keeper who neglects disinfection, knowing it to be necessary, not only incurs great moral guilt but is liable to a penalty of £20. In a seaside town where, a few years since, scarlatina was very prevalent, this occurred, as I was told by the residents on the spot:—A child died of the fever in the lodging-house, and the day after the funeral of that child another family, ignorant of what had happened, entered the very same apartments. You have mentioned the case of a laundress's child taking the fever, in consequence of infected clothes being sent without warning, and, therefore, without the adoption of needful precautions. I believe that this is a frequent source of infection. The baskets used to convey the foul linen, and the covers—which are commonly made of woollen—become infected, and thus the infection may be communicated to the clean linen on its way home. The clothing and bedding of a scarlatina patient before it is sent to the wash should be scalded and then disinfected with carbolic acid. Quite recently I saw in consultation a child suffering from scarlatina, his sister having died the day before of the same disease. These were the children of a tailor, whose workshop adjoined and opened into the room occupied by the sick child. This affords an illustration of the way in which new clothes may become infected. A few days afterwards I saw another child suffering from a malignant form of scarlatina, and lying in a room at the back of a greengrocer's shop. The family who were in attendance upon the child were continually passing from the sick-room into the shop to distribute fruit and vegetables to their customers. Some time since I was consulted about a young lady who had albuminuria consequent on scarlatina. A few days before this lady had sickened with the fever her pianoforte had been tuned by a man who was obviously unwell, and who, it was afterwards ascertained, had been suffering from scarlatina. When scarlatina is in a house casual visitors should be warned and excluded. In the early part of the present year a young lady was admitted as a visitor to a house where several members were ill. She afterwards learnt that the illness was scarlatina, and a fortnight afterwards she sickened with the disease. A younger brother of this young lady, some months before, was seized with scarlatina five days after returning to school after the holidays. On inquiry, it was found that the boy with whom he slept had suffered from scarlatina during the holidays. The master of a large school told me quite recently that one of his pupils while at home at the end of the holidays had symptoms which excited suspicion of scarlatina; nevertheless, his parents sent him back to school. Fortunately, the disease proved not to be scarlatina. About two years since an Oxford undergraduate sickened with scarlatina; and, in obedience to orders from his parents, he returned home, travelling in a first-class carriage with five other passengers while the eruption was fully out upon him. Medical attendants, especially those who practise midwifery, should be careful to avoid conveying the disease to others—washing and disinfecting the hands after touching a patient, and driving, or better, walking, in the open air are obvious precautions. A friend of mine, Dr. B., attributes the illness and death of one of his own children to his having taken the child with him in his brougham when he was visiting a succession of cases of scarlatina. It is notorious that articles of furniture or clothing, if shut up without being cleansed and disinfected, may be a source of danger for an indefinite period. Some years ago the following illustration of this came to my knowledge. A child, on a visit to an unmarried aunt in the country, sickened with scarlatina immediately after her arrival, and it is probable that she took the disease with her. The child died of the disease. More than a year afterwards another niece, on a visit to the same house, took scarlatina and died. On careful inquiry as to the probable source of infection, it was found that a dressed doll which had been nursed by the first child during her illness, and which since her death had been put away in a drawer, had been taken out and given to the second child some days before she became ill. What renders it the more probable that the doll's clothes were the source of infection is the fact that in the interval between the deaths of the two children: some older children who had visited the house, but who had neither seen nor touched the doll, remained well.

THE POLICE OF THE METROPOLIS.

THE metropolitan police district extends over a radius of fifteen miles from Charing-cross, exclusive of that ancient "peculiar" the old "City" of London, and embraces an area of 688 square miles. The rateable value of this area for the year 1869-70 was £19,809,002; of the enormous actual value of the property in the charge of the police it is impossible to form an estimate. Since 1849 there have been built in the police district 225,322 new houses; 1630 miles of new streets have been added to the charge of the police; the population has increased from 2,473,758 to 3,563,410. To meet this increase the available strength of the police has only increased from 5195 to 6672. For though the authorised strength of the metropolitan police of all ranks on Dec. 31, 1869, was 8883, the men withdrawn for attendance at the public buildings and offices, and under the Cattle Plague Act, and for the service of private individuals (who pay their charge), reduced the number available for strictly police purposes to 7784; and the regulation granting one day's leave of absence to each man every week brought the force down to 6672. The necessary further deduction for men employed on special and station duties, the sick, and for vacancies, left only 4996 actually available for duty in the streets, the total length of the roads and streets patrolled, and for the peace and security of which they are held responsible, being 6708 miles. Two thirds of the men are required for night duty, and the other third for day duty; and, in fact, during several hours of the day, the actual duty in the streets of the whole metropolis devolves upon some 800 constables. There are 921 day beats, and 3126 night beats, the night beats being much shorter than the day beats. The longest beats are those patrolled by the mounted police in the outer divisions. The police rate is now fixed by Act of Parliament at 9d. in the pound, of which one fourth is paid by the Treasury. The total amount levied in the parishes for the year ending March 31, 1870, produced £557,443. The pay of the force alone (which is in some quarters confessedly inadequate) was £571,064. The discipline of the force is kept up by the imposition of fines or dismissal, and, in cases of gross misconduct, by charging a man before a magistrate. The total number so charged in the last year was 20, out of a daily average strength of 8883. The majority of the charges were for withdrawing from duty, neglect of duty, or being drunk on duty. Three men were permitted to rejoin the service after appearing before a magistrate. On the other hand, in the same year, police officers were on fifty-seven occasions commended and rewarded by the Judges for meritorious conduct; and on twenty occasions by police magistrates; and the Commissioners granted 1379 rewards for special good service. The removals, deaths, and withdrawals in the year were 979, constituting 11 per cent upon the strength, the smallest number since 1860. Of the whole 979 there were 263 dismissed for misconduct, and 144 compelled to resign in consequence of misconduct, or of physical inability manifested within less than five years' service; 261 voluntarily resigned; 266 left with pension or gratuity; 45 died. The Commissioner remarks that the police are subject to great temptations, especially in the facilities given to them (often by those who ought to know better) to obtain drink; at all times and in all weathers, under circumstances often very trying, they are expected to be prompt to act, ready of resource, perfectly civil. That they should some-

times fail is inevitable. They are drilled for an hour about sixteen times in a year which is no more than is absolutely necessary to enable men, who are frequently required to act in concert in large bodies, to do so with some little precision, and to prevent their being, when assembled, a mere disorganised mob, incapable of managing a crowd. The Commissioner of Police considers it a credit to the aptitude and intelligence of the force that, with an amount of drill which in the Army would be regarded as ridiculous, they act and move so well in large bodies when it is necessary to call on them to do so; but he declares that there is not the slightest desire to make them in any sense a military body.

The primary duties of the police are, of course, the repression and the detection of crime. The amount of repressive force exerted can only be approximately conjectured; actual results can be stated. In the year 1869 the metropolitan police were engaged in 91,378 cases; 72,951 persons were apprehended by them; 6796 were taken to police stations, but not charged or detained; and 11,631 were proceeded against by summons. The number of apprehensions in 1869 shows a considerable increase, and the proportion of convictions to apprehensions, which was 59.33 per cent, a still larger increase. Of the 72,951 apprehensions, 29,391, or 29.7 per cent, were for drunkenness; 13.6 per cent were for assaults, 11.9 per cent for simple larceny, including every variety of petty theft. These three offences make up more than half the crime of the metropolis. A metropolitan police return stating the number of the principal offences against property in the last ten years shows an increase from 8807, in 1860, to 14,258, in 1869. The main increase is in simple larceny—viz., from 5123 to 9271; and larcenies by servants increased from 510 to 1263. Deducting these two offences, the total increase of crime in the nine years is 880. The population in that time increased by more than half a million. After the passing of the Habitual Criminals Bill a very careful inquiry was made as to the actual number of thieves, receivers, and suspected persons known to the police. It was found to be 4336; but it is admitted that there are very many unknown, especially young thieves, who snatch whatever property comes ready to their hands; and, being young and active, in crowded neighbourhoods are very difficult either to know or to catch. The numbers in 1869 were—1809 known thieves, 167 receivers of stolen goods, and 2360 suspected persons. With regard to the detection of crime, the Commissioner has to observe that a detective force, necessarily working in secret, away from supervision and control, is viewed with the greatest suspicion and jealousy by the majority of Englishmen. The utmost care and circumspection are required in the selection of such a force, and in seeing as far as possible that their duty is honestly and faithfully performed. Before 1869 the only detective force in the metropolitan police consisted of fifteen persons. The Commissioner states that they were and are a very able and trustworthy body, but numerically they were quite inadequate to the constant demands made upon them, the daily calls upon them arising in the metropolis, and the enormous mass of inquiries and investigations made for the Government on important matters. In June, 1869, the Secretary of State sanctioned an increase of their number; and the detective force now attached to the metropolitan police comprises a superintendent, three chief inspectors, three inspectors, forty sergeants, and 160 constables. Very great care was taken in making the appointments. In the first six months, the second half of the year 1869, they arrested 2416 persons, and the convictions were 63.4 per cent of that number. A large proportion of these arrests were made in consequence of the commission of the more serious crimes. In those six months no complaint was made against any of the detective force; in many instances they were commended by the judges and police magistrates. Twenty-seven of this force are stationed in Scotland-yard; the others are divisional constables. The development of the detective system will be carefully observed.

The Commissioner proceeds to describe particular departments of police duty. The results of the proceedings against beggars have been satisfactory. The number arrested in 1869 was 4183, and 2297 were summarily convicted. On the whole, through the efforts of the police, assisted by the action of the Mendicity Societies, the begging nuisance, it is believed, was much abated. With regard to costermongers, the regulations issued in conformity with the Metropolitan Streets Act of 1867 have worked well, and the complaints against this class have diminished. The regulation of the vast number of vehicles and pedestrians traversing the streets of the metropolis, and the maintenance of order on occasions which bring large masses of people together, are among the important duties of the police. A very large number of summonses were taken out with a view to checking furious and reckless driving, and additional constables were placed on the principal crossings to regulate the traffic and assist pedestrians; but the Commissioner represents that, in their haste, pedestrians run unnecessary risk, and are often quite as much to blame as drivers. Three times in the last year—viz., on her Majesty's visit to the City, and at the Harvard boat-race and the Universities boat-race—larger crowds assembled than had been previously known. On the first of these occasions the duty of keeping ten miles of streets for the passage of the Royal cortege through an enormous crowd devolved upon the metropolitan police; 5566 were on duty, and it is calculated that not less than 600,000 persons were present. On all three occasions perfect good order was maintained. At the Harvard boat-race there were fewer depredations and less disorder than on any similar occasion. Among the duties of the metropolitan police may also be named attendance at fires within the district; in 1869 13,963 of the force attended at 593 fires. The vacancies among the "hackney-carriage" attendants are now filled by police constables. The standings for hackney carriages have been increased to 419, accommodating 3430 cabs, and the railway stations accommodate 1112; consequently there are standings for 4542 out of 5782 cabs licensed. In the proceedings for the suppression of betting-houses and agencies and lotteries great difficulty has occurred in obtaining legal evidence; but seventeen principals were convicted and fined, some of them £100. The books of two agents, who carried on a most extensive business, showed that the evil has pervaded all classes of society. Under the supervision and registration of common lodging-houses—another branch of police duty—the accommodation provided for the poor is much improved, and daily improving, without increase of payment. In twenty years above three million visits have been made to these houses without the occurrence of one assault on an officer, and without one just complaint of intrusion in a "private dwelling." The removal of sick persons from any common lodging house or room to a hospital or parish infirmary, under the Common Lodging-Houses Act, and the fumigation of the rooms and disinfection or destruction of the bed-clothes, if necessary, constitute a further benefit to the poorer classes. It is to be regretted that the Common Lodging-Houses Acts do not extend to public-houses, in some of which are to be found all the evils of over-crowding and neglect of cleanliness and ventilation. In consequence of the prevalence of famine or relapsing fever in the past year, the minimum cubical space allowed for each lodger in a common lodging-house was extended from 200 to 300 cubical feet. Improved ventilation has been generally introduced, and cisterns instead of water-butts supplied.

The Smoke Nuisance Abatement Acts are enforced by the metropolitan police, and the police had to interfere in more than 1900 cases last year. There are fifty-four different kinds of apparatus at the various manufactories, works, &c., within the metropolis, all of which work well and prevent nuisance from smoke. Bakers' furnaces can be effectually altered so as to prevent nuisance, and with a considerable saving of fuel. The operation of the Smoke Nuisance Abatement Acts has been of great service in clearing the atmosphere of London; the effect is especially noticeable in the neighbourhood of the Lambeth and Vauxhall potteries, nearly facing the Houses of Parliament, where there are bone-boiling and pottery furnaces, kilns, and gasworks in active operation day and night, consuming hundreds of tons of coal every twenty-four hours. Another duty performed by the

metropolitan police is that of acting as assistant relieving officers to unions which apply for their services, the policeman receiving a gratuity of 2s. 6d. a week from the parish authorities for his services. In 1869 the police granted 443,974 orders for admission to casual wards, and refused 11,239, not finding the usual inquiries satisfactorily answered. The Commissioner states that this duty is very distasteful to the police, and that their employment upon it is productive of no good whatever. The ordinary duty at the stations is interrupted; the contact of the police with the casuals as relieving officers detracts from their authority over them; and the casuals are a nuisance and an annoyance to the police and to the residents in the neighbourhood of the stations. It should be mentioned that the casual wards of workhouses are visited by superintendents and inspectors at uncertain hours during the night, and reports of inspections are forwarded to the Poor-Law Board: a small gratuity is allowed for this duty. There are also one or two other special duties for which a certain number of the metropolitan police are detached from the main body. Fifty-one men, very carefully selected, were engaged last year in carrying into effect the provisions of the Contagious Diseases Acts at the several places in which those Acts are in operation. 159 men were engaged on duty connected with the cattle plague, constables being posted day and night at every road round the metropolis, and at railway stations and wharves, forming a complete cordon to prevent the removal of cattle without a license. Licenses were granted by the police in the year to move 301,526 head of cattle, under stringent regulations. Six hundred and thirty of the metropolitan police were employed in the dockyards at Woolwich, Portsmouth, Devonport, Chatham, and Pembroke. This arrangement, commenced in 1860, has effected a great saving to the Government in breaking up a long-continued system of petty larcenies carried on by the workmen and other persons employed, and evidently connived at by the old dockyard police; the marine-store dealers who purchased the stolen metal have nearly all left the neighbourhood of the dockyards. In 1861 the police at the dockyards apprehended (besides deserters) 262 persons, of whom 157 were convicted; in 1869 only 60 persons, of whom 52 were convicted.

This is a long catalogue of police duties. One or two other points remain to be noticed. The experiment of granting a weekly leave for one day to every member of the force has been a disappointment. In the higher ranks duties have had to be cast upon substitutes more or less inexperienced or incapable, and constant complaints from the public have been the result, while the constable himself becomes unsettled by the constant interruption of duty. The Commissioner has felt bound to recommend that the leave be for two days in the month, one to be a Sunday; the annual leave remaining at four weeks for superintendents, two for inspectors, ten days for sergeants, seven days for constables. The Commissioner is of opinion that the sergeants and constables have a reasonable claim to some increase of pay, and he proposes an advance to the following weekly rates:—Sergeants, 31s. and 29s., according to their class; and constables, 26s., 24s., 22s., and 20s., according to class. The reserve is not now constituted so as to make it an object for men to enter it. The Commissioner recommends some changes; the extra reserve pay would be 4s. a week for 19 inspectors, 3s. for 70 sergeants, and 1s. 6d. for 700 constables. The reserves will be a body of men selected for ability, smartness, and good conduct, to be available for employment on public occasions, doing ordinary duty at other times. The Commissioner has also to state that an increase in the police force of the metropolis is required. There are beats of more than fifteen miles in length. The system of beats is indispensable, but when, as is the case in most of the larger divisions, the day-duty beats vary from one mile to fifteen and the night-duty beats from 870 yard to three miles and 997 yards, it becomes practically impossible for anyone to know where the police-constable of the beat may be at any given moment. The Commissioner proposes to establish 293 fixed points, the most important points in each division, at each of which point a constable shall be constantly posted from 8 a.m. to midnight, arrangements being made that, in the event of his being called away, his place will be supplied by a constable detailed for duty on a short beat in the vicinity, or by a hackney-carriage constable if available. The public will then very soon know where to find a constable when they want one. These several recommendations for meeting real wants of the public will require an addition of 811 constables. The Commissioner proposes that 200 be appointed in the current year; the various retrenchments made in the police expenditure will leave funds sufficient for this additional force; and he trusts that sufficient funds may be available next year to justify a further addition to the force necessary for the protection and service of the public. To the public also he appeals to second the efforts of the police. The number of doors and windows found open at night by the police is almost incredible. Houses with valuable property in them are left entirely unprotected, and the use of latchkeys renders the entrance of the professional thief very simple. The householder must not leave all to Jupiter.

This year, for the first time, a report from the Commissioner of Police of the metropolis, giving an account of the police and their work in the preceding year, has been laid before Parliament. The statements we have here presented are, therefore, founded on good authority. An annual report will tend to promote a good understanding between this important department and the public and to make improvements more easy and more acceptable.—Times.

DR. MANNING ON THE OCCUPATION OF ROME.—In most of the Roman Catholic churches in London on Sunday there were special devotions, including prayers for the protection of the Pope, and, with but few exceptions, remarks were made by the preachers on the recent events in Rome. In the cathedral church at Kensington Archbishop Manning preached a long sermon on this subject, taking his text from the passage in Scripture referring to Pilate washing his hands—a parallel, of course, being drawn between that personage and the King of Italy. The Roman question, so far from being at an end, as some suppose it is, said the Archbishop, is only spreading, and that public order was universally threatened by that of which England approved.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BEAT INSTITUTION.—On Thursday a meeting of this institution was held at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., V.E., in the chair. Richard Lewis, Esq., the secretary, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, the silver medal of the society, a copy of the vote inscribed on vellum, and £1, were granted to Mr. John Cummins, coxswain of the Arklow life-beat, and £14 to the crew of the boat, in acknowledgment of their gallant services in putting off in that boat on the 2nd ult., during a heavy south-westerly gale, and rescuing the master and his wife and the crew of three men from the schooner Dove, of Barrow, which became a total wreck on the Arklow sandbank. When rescued from the rigging the five poor creatures were in a most exhausted state, as they had been exposed there for some hours before their perilous position was discovered, the darkness of the night preventing their being seen, and they being too far from the shore for their cries for help to be heard. Much risk was run by the life-beat men in effecting this rescue—their boat having been repeatedly filled by very heavy seas. £96 were also granted to the crews of various other life-boats of the society for different services during recent storms. Altogether, the institution had contributed this year to the saving of 500 persons from shipwrecks on our coasts. Various other rewards were likewise granted to the crews of different shore-boats for saving life from wrecks on our shores. Payments amounting to £2300 were ordered to be made on various life-beat establishments. The institution is earnestly appealing for support to enable it to meet the constant heavy expenditure on its large life-saving fleet, now numbering 223 boats. T.H.N. had forwarded £10 to the society as "a thanksgiving for a safe voyage." £3 5s. 4d. had likewise been collected by Captain Hammond, after an amateur performance on board the Union steam-ship Cambrian, on her last voyage to England from the Cape. A legacy of £50 had been left to the institution by the late S. S. Allen, Esq., of Finsbury. New life-boats had recently been forwarded by the institution to Felling (Norfolk) and Portloe (Cornwall), where public demonstrations had taken place on the occasion of the arrival and first launch of the boats—the Earl of Shaftesbury assisting at the inauguration of the Felling new life-beat station. It was also decided to form a life-beat station at Moville, in the county of Donegal; and to send a new life-beat to Greencastle, near Londonderry. Reports were read from the inspector and the assistant inspector of life boats to the institution on their recent visits to the coast, and the proceedings then terminated.

MUSIC.

THE first of the Crystal Palace concerts for the present season was well attended, and in other respects as successful as could be desired. No fuss was made to mark the event; indeed, only the prolonged cheering which welcomed Mr. Manns to his place suggested the opening of another campaign. The orchestra showed nothing but familiar faces to the audience; the audience must have worn a familiar aspect to the orchestra; and the programme was of the old sort. Hence, as though there had been no interregnum, the Saturday concert again took their place in the scheme of metropolitan music. Beginning at once with that homage to Beethoven which is especially appropriate during the current year, the managers placed two of the great composer's important works in their programme,—the symphony in C (No. 1) and the piano-forte concerto in G (No. 4). Both are so well known, even to characters of slight acquirements, that a dissertation upon their character and claims would be superfluous. Though it we point out that they represent Beethoven at two very different stages of his career; and, when placed in juxtaposition, enable the observant ear to measure the enormous advance made by the master during the interval. The symphony was played with all the refinement and vigour, delicacy and strength, peculiar to the Crystal Palace orchestra; while it need hardly be said that the preponderance of Mozart over Beethoven, which is a characteristic of the work, took nothing away from the enjoyment of the audience. Mr. Charles Hallé was pianist in the concerto, and his own distinctive reading of the music never had a more forcible assertion. It may be our misfortune that we cannot accept his interpretation as a whole; but it is an agreeable duty to acknowledge the manipulative skill with which all the movements were rendered. Mr. Hallé, who introduced two of the three somewhat extravagant cadences written by Beethoven for the work, was heartily applauded, and recalled at the close of his task. The remaining orchestral pieces were the overture to "Oberon," a march by Lachner, and the ball overture composed for the late Birmingham Festival by Mr. Arthur Sullivan. Though played with spirit and effect, and though essentially ad captandum in style, the last did not make much impression. Was this because the Crystal Palace audience have so long been fed upon the "strong meat" of music that they care little for "milk"? The vocalists were Miss Edith Wynne and Mr. Vernon Rigby, each of whom introduced a novelty taken from the Birmingham programme. Miss Wynne gave, less successfully than is her wont, the beautiful air "I mourn as a dove," from Benedict's "St. Peter;" and the choice of Mr. Rigby was "Oh! it there be on this earthly sphere" from Barnett's "Paradise and the Peri." Neither air produced any special effect.

NEW MUSIC.

L'Eclat de la Guerre. Fantaisie Militaire. Par CHEVALIER DE KONTSEI. London: Chappell and Co.

In this piece the composer has strung together three airs, after the approved fashion of modern arrangements. He has, however, been more careful than the average transcriber to study the requirements of the average amateur. For this reason we can recommend his fantasia as being brilliant, without entailing more labour on those who master it than the result is worth. The airs chosen are "Lutzw's Wild Chase," the "Dessauer March," and the "Marschallaise," all of which lend themselves readily to such treatment as each has here received.

The Princess Louise Waltz. Composed by CHARLES GODFREY. London: Ashdown and Parry.

This waltz is fast becoming popular, for reasons not far to seek. In the first place, its themes are pretty, and as original as we can expect waltz themes to be nowadays. Next, the composer bears a name so famous in the history of English dance music as to supply, of itself, an adequate recommendation. Last, perhaps not least, the waltz is dedicated, "by special permission," to the Princess whose name it bears, and whose likeness adorns its titlepage. If these things united cannot account for popularity, we should like to know what can.

Keep Your Powder Dry. National Song. Composed by DAN GODFREY. London: Chappell and Co.

The words of this song are by Mr. H. B. Farnie, who has elaborated and enforced the famous Cromwellian precept with much terseness and vigour of expression. We would award equal praise to the music if we could; but Mr. Godfrey seems to have catered, in this instance, for those places of public resort where a rattling chorus, with a swinging rhythm, is a prime requisite; no matter what the vulgarity of the theme. He has, no doubt, succeeded, but at the cost of spoiling whatever good impression his song is otherwise calculated to make.

Rondo for the Pianoforte. Composed by WESTLEY RICHARDS. London: Lamborn Cook and Co.

In these degenerate days of pianoforte composition, any work that comes to us in classical name and form deserves welcome and a kindly notice. We therefore welcome Mr. Richards's rondo; and extend to it no undue favour when we say that many passages are decidedly interesting as well as effective. The composer must take encouragement from the result, and, eventually, he may produce that which makes no concessions to the love of mere show—that bane of modern pianists. In the rondo before us there are too many signs of a desire to be on good terms with all parties.

The Buccaneer. Song. Written by R. Reece; composed by BERTHOLD TOURS. London: Chappell and Co.

A right good song is this. The words have the abandon with which, if at all, the pleasure of a rover's life should be set forth; and the music is worthy Mr. Tours's practised and efficient pen: vigorous, but, where needful, tinged with the melancholy that is the shadow of gaiety; emphatic in the beat of its rhythm; always melodious and admirably accompanied. This song will commend itself to the musician, not less than to those whose lyrical tastes run strongly in the direction of pirates, smugglers, and other breakers of the law.

The Blind Girl's Dream. Song. Written and composed by LOUISA GRAY. London: Chappell and Co.

Words of simple pathos are here set to music of simple beauty. The composer has, in fact, given the lovers of genuine ballads a thing after their own heart, and the popularity of her gift is assured. Few, we imagine, could hear "The Blind Girl's Dream" expressively sung without being moved to that sympathy which is the best tribute to excellence.

Lady Clare. Song. Written by Edward Legge; composed by WALTER MAYNARD. London: Chappell and Co.

The knightly story told by Mr. Legge has inspired his collaborator to some purpose. The result, at all events, is a song of more than average value. Attractive throughout, Mr. Maynard's music often shows power of a high order in its way. "Lady Clare" deserves our best wishes.

FUNGUS SHOW AT THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—This show, on Wednesday, proved very attractive. Notwithstanding the drought, a great many fine and curious specimens were exhibited; and, as there was no collection in the first class (which was confined to edible fungi), the prizes were awarded to Mr. G. Worthington Smith and Mr. James English, whose collections were considered of equal merit; while the second prize was given to Mr. Hoyle. Lord Lonsborough exhibited a fine form of *Dendrobium chrysites*, in great perfection; and there were many other objects of interest. Mr. W. Wilson Saunders, F.R.S., presided at a general meeting of the society, viz.:—Arnold de B. Baruchson; the Rev. Arthur H. Cole, M.A.; Major J. Grant-Cresser, Mrs. Darbishire, Edward W. Green, Thomas Laurence Read, &c.

Literature.

Lunacy, its Past and its Present. By Dr. ROBERT GARDINER HILL, F.S.A. London: Longmans and Co.

When Mr. Charles Reade's story, "Hard Cash," appeared in the pages of *All the Year Round*, with its startling episode of the confinement of a sane man in a private lunatic asylum, and the means used for subduing him to reason, the readers of the tale felt a vague apprehension that, while licensed madhouses were profitable establishments for their principals, nothing but an improved system of inspection, greater caution in the commitment of patients, and vastly increased facilities for ensuring inquiry on the appeal of any of the inmates would secure people from the possibility of being imprisoned at the will of interested relatives, and either kept in confinement by an utterly prejudiced distortion of their statements, or tortured into lunacy by a system of barbarities inflicted as punishments for their opposition to the indignities offered them by subordinate keepers. It is probable that the eminent novelist put the case with all that intensity for which he is famous; and his attack upon the constituted authorities who administer the laws for reputed lunatics was so vigorous that the conductor of the journal (the late Mr. Charles Dickens) disavowed any personal concurrence with the opinions of his leading contributor. Even this reassurance, however, failed to remove from many minds the uneasiness which Mr. Reade's narrative had produced. It was remembered that the same subject had been made the serious motive for another book published a quarter of a century ago, and still sold at the railway stations. There was, of course, the natural expectation that what might have been possible in the days when we read "Valentine Vox" at school and shuddered over the agonies of Mr. Goodman would be at least highly improbable now that legislation had advanced in every direction; and, on the whole, we were willing to make a very large allowance for the sensational element necessary for the production of a highly dramatic story appearing in weekly instalments. Unfortunately for our comfortable conclusions, however, certain reports have very recently appeared in newspapers which show plainly enough that the practices at the private and even some of the county lunatic asylums in this country are so little known to official inspectors, and so carefully concealed from visiting magistrates, that there is still a dim obscure, which imagination, supported by occasional proof, may fill with horrors. Not long ago the condition of an escaped lunatic, accidentally brought to the publicity of a police court, elicited indignant remonstrance from the Bench. The evidences of cruel usage were so obvious that one or two under-keepers were actually made an example of, and even the principal had to plead ignorance, and to appear deeply distressed at the discovery. Only the other day an appellant, after vainly endeavouring to call the attention of the appointed inspectors to the fact that he had recovered from the partial aberration for which he had been confined, contrived to obtain his freedom, and made use of it to make a calm protest before a magistrate against his illegal imprisonment; the result being that he was relegated to the care of his keepers, with the advantage of a promise that special attention should be called to his case during the period that would elapse before the next official visitation. This is one part of the question which any reference to the condition of the inmates of asylums must always suggest; but it is only a small part of it. The treatment of the actually insane, for whose security and ultimate restoration such establishments are intended to provide, is still a subject requiring legislative interference; and to those who imagine that cruel restrictions, secret and barbarous punishments, and brutal repression belong to a past age, and have long been practically unknown, we refer to Dr. Gardiner Hill's book, which is a sufficient authority, inasmuch as its author was long engaged as superintendent to a large county asylum, and has devoted his efforts to the abolition of all restraints in the treatment of lunatics, except continual vigilance, and the use not only of medical but of circumstantial remedies. Like most books on medical subjects, this little volume is partially occupied in a defence of its statements against former opponents; but, without reference to these disputes, the cases which are there recorded, and the narrative of the experiences of the author in his investigations, are so suggestive of what may be the present condition of numbers of insane persons, in places where the traditions of the past are not wholly abandoned, that they may furnish a basis for an inquiry that will lead to a complete reformation of the mode in which the lunacy laws are made to operate.

What Shall My Son Be? By FRANCIS DAVENANT, M.A. London: S. W. Partridge and Co.

When Master Wilkins Micawber indignantly reminded his family that he couldn't be born a bird, he only uttered a protest which might justly be made by a great many boys, to whom an unsuggestive inquiry is made as to what they "would like to be." It ought not to surprise any vaguely-questioning parent or Pumblechookian uncle who suddenly tackles a defenceless lad with such a question, to receive for reply that the Chancellorship of the Exchequer, the First Lordship of the Admiralty, the head partnership in the house of Baring, or the Presidency of the United States, were equally immediate objects of ambition; and yet such an answer would be deemed more impertinent than the absurd proposition that a boy who had not yet left school should have surveyed the entire social arena, and made up his mind where to take up the gauntlet for a conflict suited to his prowess. As a rule, parents and guardians require to be instructed not only in the method of discovering the particular inclinations or talents of the young people under their charge, but also in the obligations which guardianship involves, to select a possible career, in which the demands on their own pecuniary resources will not exceed their ability to meet while the necessary training is being completed. To those who, having "a little influence" in any particular profession, yet hesitate because they are not quite sure they can afford the preliminary expenses, as well as to some who are actually ignorant of what is required in order to enter any particular branch of the public service with a probability of success, the book now before us will be serviceable; and it may be made still more useful in indicating to boys themselves what are the real conditions which they must expect in any professional pursuit for which they believe they have a preference, founded on conscious qualifications for fulfilling its duties. The Church, the Bar and Legal professions, Medicine, the Navy and Mercantile Marine services, the Army, Civil Service both here and in India, Architecture, Painting, Literature, Science, and various branches of occupation "in the City," are touched upon with a plain, frank statement of many of their difficulties and most of their requirements; while an appendix at the end of the book is, perhaps, most practically useful of all, since it contains not only examples of the subjects included in examination-papers for candidates for naval cadetships, the mercantile marine, the Bar, and the Civil Service in its various branches, but furnishes information as to the regulations that must be observed in entering on the course of study and the rules laid down by the examiners. A more practically suggestive book it would be difficult to name, and to those who find the question which forms its title a pressing difficulty it may be of real and valuable assistance.

The Castaways. By CAPTAIN MAYNE REID. London: T. Nelson and Sons.

This story narrates the perils of a sea-captain and his two children, who, with a wonderfully sagacious Malay pilot and a faithful Irish seaman, escape from a wreck, and reach in an open boat the island of Borneo. To those acquainted with the vivid pictures of wild life for which the author is famous, it need scarcely be remarked that the deliverances from starvation by means of gigantic oysters, and equally gigantic fruit (which has to be brought down from the trees by musket shots), are not less sur-

prising than those from gavials, constrictors, and gorillas. "The Castaways" is, however, more than a mere sensational tale; and, attractive as it is sure to become to juvenile readers, it conveys, along with the excitement of the story, much information about the natural history of those islands, where birds, fruits, and animals are themselves so strange and startling that any true description of them appears at first to partake of the exaggerations of romance.

The O'Neiles; or, Second Night. By ALISON GARD. London: Provoost and Co.

Portraits through which secret visitors keep watch, stones that move with a spring from the mouth of subterranean passages, priestly conspiracies, mysterious ladies, dark plots, and half-ruined castles scarcely serve to make a book other than dull if it be written in that style which went out with "The Farmer of Ingleswood Forest," without ever attaining to the perfection of that once popular model. Even the occasional intervention of an Irishman with a genuine brogue fails to lift "The O'Neiles" into an interesting story; and when we learn at the end that "there are many who to this day point out the spot where stand the now mouldering ruins of what was once O'Neile Court," we determine, on our next visit to the western coast of Ireland, carefully to abstain from making any inquiry about such a dreary locality.

TWO BOOKS OF VERSE.

Poems by the late William Leighton. Second Edition. London: Longmans, Green, and Co.

Poems. By THORNTON WELLS. London: Longmans, Green, and Co.

Both these books—Mr. Leighton's being the best—belong to a class which has of late years largely increased. An extensive poetical literature is at the command of almost everyone who can read, and in that way a certain degree of poetic culture is at the service of all who have poetic sensibility enough to use it. The result is seen in various particulars, but very strikingly in volumes like these two. In both we have some portion of poetic apprehensiveness, and a certain power of graceful versifying; in both there are evident traces of considerable reading of recent poetry. In the case of Mr. William Leighton we are informed that his acquaintance with English poetry was wide; and in him we discern a beautiful nature, and much more. Some of his poems, too, are capable of communicating a gentle pleasure which is not alloyed by any positive faults. Mr. Wells, too, is readable by those who are not fastidious. But in neither of these two volumes do we find anything which other than very friendly readers would be likely to remember; in neither, to speak truth, do we find any composition which could be honestly called a poem in any strict sense of the word. We by no means apply here a high standard; we simply exclude what is not distinctly *song*.

M. W. Leighton comes nearest to the mark, as we have already stated. He seems to have been the nephew of Mr. Robert Leighton—often mentioned in these columns—who (also dead) was a true poet, and of a high class too, though not high in that class.

THE EDUCATION LEAGUE.—The annual meeting of the London branch of the National Education League was held on Wednesday night. The report gave at length the history and work of the society since its formation. Although the Government bill fell short of the views of the committee, it yet contained many valuable provisions, and might be expected greatly to improve the classes coming under its operation. It was resolved to continue the existence of the branch, with a view to assist the central executive in carrying out the Birmingham programme.

GARIBOLDI.—Garibaldi has written from Capri, Sept. 27, to say that he "shall not go to France," but should like to see England, "the classic land of peace." He takes the initiative in the formation of a world-wide Areopagus, and thus put an end to those savage massacres with which at this moment Central Europe is cursed. If he desired the triumph of the Prussian arms it was because he longed to see the overthrow of the most execrable tyrant of modern times. He was a prisoner through the influence of Bonaparte over the Florence Government. He suggests that Nice should be made the place for holding the meetings of the Areopagus.

EXPORTS TO FRANCE AND GERMANY.—The Board of Trade returns, now issued for August, state that in that month we exported only 15,999 small arms; in the same month of 1868 the number exported was 40,569, and 1869 29,065. In the first eight months of 1868 the number of firearms (small) exported from the United Kingdom was 343,132; in the corresponding period of 1869, 210,089; and of 1870, 224,565. The export of gunpowder in the month of August amounted to 1,347,816 lb. in 1868; 1,312,121 lb. in 1869; 1,274,568 lb. in 1870. In the first eight months of the year 1868 the export was 11,144,106 lb.; of 1869, 10,243,311 lb.; of 1870, 11,765,708 lb. The export of coals from the United Kingdom to France in the month of August amounted to 147,058 tons in 1868; 164,266 tons in 1869; and 228,274 tons in 1870. In the first eight months of the year, 1,281,382 tons in 1868; 1,333,063 tons in 1869; 1,626,114 tons in 1870. The export of coals to Prussia in August amounted to 78,655 tons in 1868, 57,203 tons in 1869, only 492 tons in 1870, but it is not our fault that she took no more; in the first eight months of the year, 388,342 tons in 1868, 372,466 tons in 1869, 349,652 tons in 1870. The export of coals to the Hanse Towns in August was 64,894 tons in 1868, 75,743 tons in 1869, 18,798 tons in 1870; in the first eight months of the year, 626,657 tons in 1868, 564,835 tons in 1869, 497,045 tons in 1870. The export of coals from the United Kingdom to neutral countries of Europe in August, 1870, shows a large increase over August 1869, in the instance of Russia, Sweden, Denmark, and Holland.

THE LATE SOCIAL SCIENCE CONGRESS AND THE PEACE QUESTION.—The advocacy of Peace—European disarmament and a general system of international arbitration—claimed prominent attention at the late Social Science Congress at Newcastle. Amongst the influential gentlemen who took part in the meetings and discussions on that occasion, and supported decided peace views, were many of the leading members of the Social Science Association, including Mr. G. W. Hastings, its founder and honorary secretary. In the Jurisprudence Department papers in favour of pacific principles of international law and modes of arbitration were read by Professor Leone Levi and Mr. Thomas Beggs. Respecting the paper by the latter gentleman, the *Newcastle Chronicle* observes:—"The arguments by which Mr. Beggs sought to sustain both propositions were of the most cogent character, and, we observe from the subsequent discussion, were cordially indorsed by the Duke of Northumberland, Mr. J. M. Ludlow, and Mr. Henry Richard, M.P. The war has given a vast impulse to peace principles." On that occasion Mr. Richard, M.P., mentioned a number of interesting examples of the successful application of arbitration in preventing war and settling national differences. The discussion resulted in the passing of a resolution requesting the council of the Social Science Association "to appoint a committee to consider whether some general scheme of international arbitration or conciliation cannot be recommended for adoption." During the stay of the congress in Newcastle, a crowded and enthusiastic peace meeting was also held in the Townhall. Mr. Joseph Cowan, jun. (proprietor of the *Newcastle Chronicle*), and son of Mr. Cowan, M.P.), occupied the chair. Eloquent speeches were delivered by Mr. Henry Richard, M.P., Mr. Cowan, Mr. John Hodgkin (of Lewes), the Rev. Dr. Rutherford, Mr. Arthur Trevelyan, J.P., the Rev. J. C. Street, and other gentlemen. Resolutions were unanimously passed in favour of the abolition of standing armies and the establishment of a system of international arbitration.

COLOUR-BLINDNESS AND RAILWAY OFFICIALS.—To Dalton and Herschel belong the credit of first directing attention to persons suffering from colour-blindness, who may even themselves be in happy ignorance of the fact, because of this peculiar condition of vision not necessarily defecting the eye or interfering with the ordinary requirements of sight. We understand that those practitioners who examine men for employment upon railways and who take the trouble of testing whether the person before him suffers from colour-blindness or not, discover it no unusual fact to find them erroneous in recognising certain colour rays, and that the shades wherein most err are red, yellow, green, and blue, the red being mistaken for yellow by some, the yellow for green, the pale green for cloudy white, and the blue for black, the very shades which all persons working upon, or connected with railways or holding situations wherein coloured lights are employed, as in vessels at sea or light-houses, should be perfect in, as a mistake might prove disastrous to many. Indeed very few persons are perfect in their colour vision. Dr. Wilson, who is an authority on the subject, states that one person in every eighteen is colour-blind in some marked degree, and that one in every fifty-five confounds red with green. Any one of the fifty-five must needs be a dangerous person if intrusted with the working of coloured signals; accordingly, it behoves railway companies to test periodically, through their medical officer, the condition of vision to detecting colours of their operatives; for if colour-blindness exists we know education of the eye or treatment will not improve it. We know a gentleman who always recognised light red as violet; and when lightning existed in the atmosphere the flash always assumed a violet hue to him. Men, then, who pace the deck of a steamer on watch, signal-workers and railway guards, should be even above suspicion of being colour-blind; and, to avoid danger, their efficiency should be properly tested.—*Medical Press and Circular*.

GROUPS OF THE 11TH JESSY CORPS, FROCHWEILER, RIVER SAVER, PRUSSIAN ARTILLERY, W. RTH. FRENCH ARTILLERY, TRENCH POSITION, MILL, GUNSTETT, PRUSSIAN INFANTRY.



THE BATTLE-FIELD OF WORTH, FROM THE POSITION OF THE 6TH PRUSSIAN INFANTRY. - (SEE PAGE 222.)

GENERAL

HERWARTH VON BITTENFELD,

GENERAL HERWARTH VON BITTENFELD, born in 1796, took part in the campaign of 1813; in 1863 he obtained the rank of General; in 1864 he commanded the expedition against Alsace, and for that feat of arms he was awarded the Prussian order "Pour la Mérite." Herwarth von Bittenfeld also commanded the army of the Elbe in 1866, and took rapid possession of Saxony. He enjoys the perfect confidence and friendship of his Royal master. He is commandant at the great fortress of Coblenz, and, being in charge of the German reserves, has the duty of forwarding reinforcements to the armies in the field as they are wanted.

BEFORE METZ.

THE FORTIFICATIONS.

ALTHOUGH we have already published some description of the defences of Metz, the stout resistance it offers renders it worth while refreshing the reader's memory with the subjoined details, which appear in a letter from the besieging lines dated the 2nd inst.

The town of Metz, with the great cathedral, lies for the most part on the east side of a branch of the Moselle, which forks off from the main stream at La Grange aux Dames, and forms the islands of Chamblère, and, lower down, of Sauley and St. Simphorien. A large suburb, however, stands on the first of these islands. The inner fortifications surround the town continuously, with the exception of one gap to the southward, which is covered efficiently by the branch of the Moselle which divides the islands of Sauley and St. Simphorien. On the north of the Isle de Chamblère are two important forts on the inner line, one at the north-western angle of the enceinte, the other detached in the plain of the island, but connected with the enceinte by a covered way. On the south of the inner line are the Redoubt du Pate to the east, and the Lunette d'Arcon to the west, both connected with the enceinte by a covered way. The western side of the inner line is covered by the great Fort Moselle on the further side of the main stream of the Moselle, a double crown work of immense strength and magnitude, inclosing great magazines and arsenals. To the south of it the bastion of Ile Sauley sends out a long spur of fortifications, which crosses the Moselle, and terminates in a redoubt on the further side. Nor is the eastern side of the inner line less strongly protected. In front of the enceinte looms the great double crown work of Belle Croix, Cormontaigne's masterpiece, to the full as large as Fort Moselle, and more highly favoured by its natural position. To the south of it stands Fort Gisors, a minor detached fortification which serves to complete the circuit of connection with the Redoubt du Pate on the south. Thus the town of Metz is, in fact, environed by two lines of fortifications, the continuous enceinte with its bastions and what I may term the outer cordon of the inner circle having intimate connection with the enceinte.

Of themselves these defences would make the place all but impregnable, but they are by no means the most important defences of this extraordinary fortress. There is an outer circle of detached fortifications, each of which is the complement of the other, and of which no one can be assailed without the assailant laying his account to be enfiladed by at least two of the others. Let us begin with those at the Moselle, on the north of the town at La Grange aux Dames, and work round, proceeding first in an easterly direction. After climbing the bank of the stream we come to the

chaussée leading to Bouzonville, and crossing it we almost immediately come on the great glacis of Fort St. Julien. This is an outlying fort of the first magnitude, covering the whole of the low summit of a natural eminence, and having on three sides a natural glacis, therefore of great extent. It lies about two English miles from Metz, in a north-easterly direction; and a little to the north-east of it is the monastery and wood of Grimont, the former of which has been scientifically diverted from ecclesiastical to military purposes. About a mile and a half due south of St. Julien, and about a mile due east from Fort Belle-Croix, is Fort les Bottes, a great hog-backed structure chiefly of earth, which has been thrown up as a precautionary measure, either immediately before or immediately after the outbreak of the war. Its position is very important as a link between St. Julien and Fort Quelen on the south. It stands a little

(except the little Belle-Croix) are furnished with heavy guns of position, and it is believed that there is no lack of ammunition for the use of these great fortress guns, although field artillery ammunition is short.

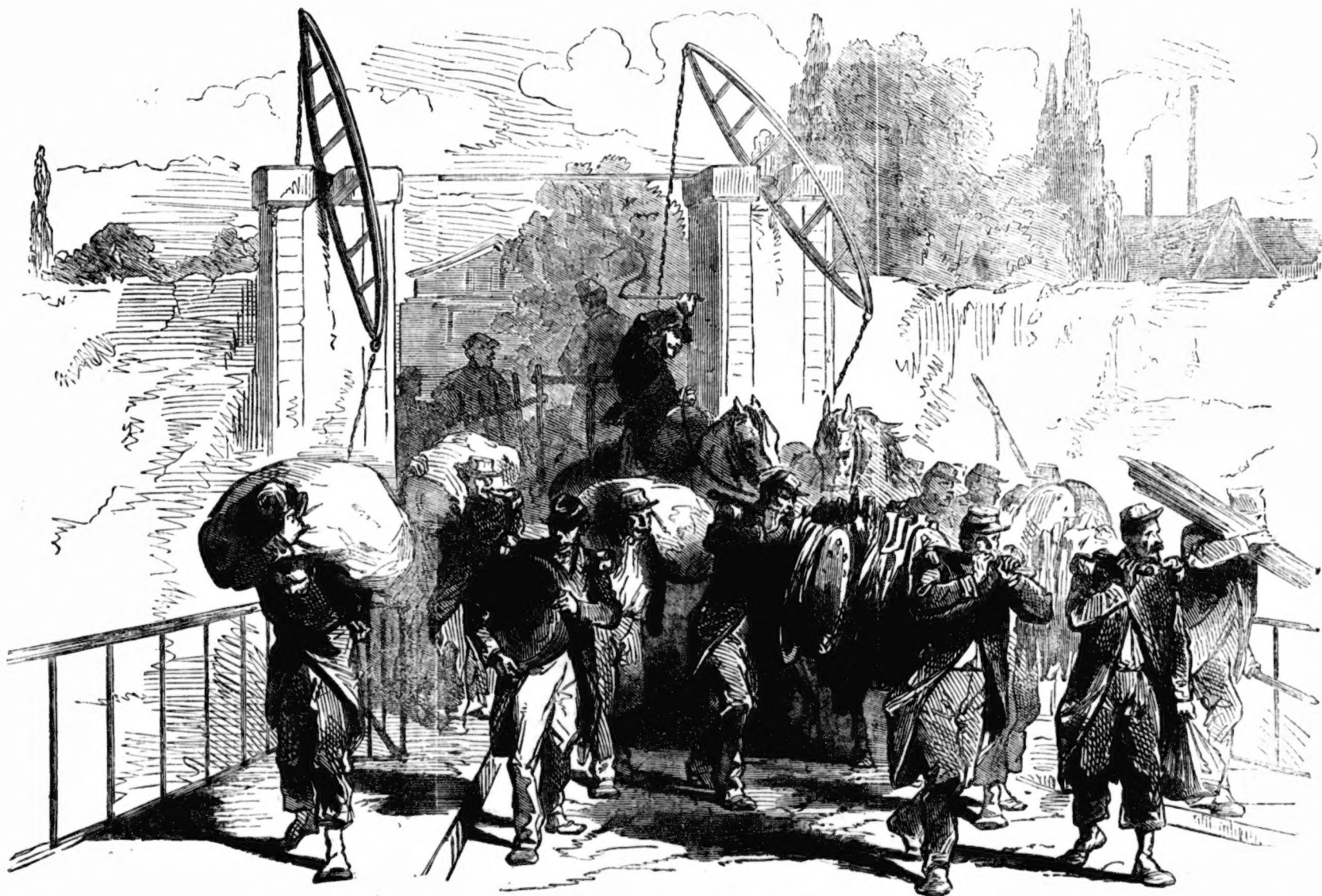
THE GERMAN LINES.

From the Moselle, on the east side, the 7th Army Corps hold the line of environment lying in the villages of Magny, Peltry, and Mercy-la-Haut, which last, by-the-way, is partly burnt, on as far as Ars Laqueux. Their foreposts and *feldwachts* are a little further forward, but not so far as they were a few days ago, when the foreposts were at La Grange aux Bois. The left of the 1st Army Corps lies in Columbe, which is also considerably burnt, feeling the right of the 7th in Mercy-la-Haut. Its second line extends to the northward in the villages of Ogy, Flanville,



GENERAL HERWARTH VON BITTENFELD, COMMANDER OF THE GERMAN RESERVES.

to the south of the great chaussée from Metz to Saarlouis and Saarbrück, while as yet the bisection has not taken place. Forward about a mile from Les Bottes, and on the chaussée just before it bisects, is a village named Belle-Croix, which must not, however, be confounded with the fort of the same name. Here also there are many earthworks and guns; but the latter are mostly field artillery, and paucity of ammunition keeps them tolerably quiet. About a mile and a half south of Fort les Bottes, and about the same distance from Metz, is Fort Quelen, also an important structure, dominating the main road to Strasbourg and the adjoining flat country, as far as the telegraph on the elevated ground before Mercy-le-Haut. Turning now westward, and inclining to the south, we come to Fort St. Privat, at a distance of about two miles and a half both from Les Bottes and Metz. Its value consists in the command it has of the eastern side of the valley of the Moselle, of the road from Nancy, and of the railway lines which converge behind it. Leaving it, we come to the Moselle again, this time on the south-west side of the town; and, striking up due north, we have nothing in the shape of fortifications till we climb the great hump on the top of which stands Fort St. Quentin, the greatest outwork of Metz. St. Quentin is a complete fortress in itself; it could hold out were all its neighbours taken, and it may safely be termed impregnable, looking at the combined strength of its natural position and its vast fortifications. Not only does it dominate the country to the south, south-west, west, and north-west, but it frowns outward to the east, and its great guns would play an important part in the defence against an attack on the inner fortifications of Metz. North-west of it, about a mile on the top of the bluffs, lies Fort Flappeville, or Les Carrières, the natural position of which is not so strong as that of St. Quentin, because the elevation on which it stands is not isolated, while it is open in the rear, and therefore requires St. Quentin as the complement of its defence. It, however, acts as a defence over a great tract of country to the west, and keeps a besieging force at a respectful distance, so that it cannot reach the edge of the bluffs and pitch projectiles down into Metz. Due north from Metz, about two miles, and standing in the middle of the plain, bounded by the Thionville Railway on the west and the Moselle on the east, lies Fort St. Eloy, the last and not the least important of the outworks of Metz. Its province is, in combination with St. Julien, to take care of the valley of the Moselle to the northward, and to dominate the great road to Thionville. All these fortifications



FRENCH SOLDIERS CARRYING BAGGAGE INTO METZ BEFORE THE SIEGE —(SEE PAGE 233)

Retonfay, Gras, and Ste. Barbe. The first line lies in Coincy, Montoy, Noisseville, Servigny, and Faily. The whole of this latter line is within range of the great guns of the great Metz outwork of St. Julien, which occupies the summit of a mamelon. Between the first and second line there is only an interval of about a mile. To the front there lie, first, the foreposts, then the *feldwachts*, and lastly the single sentries, within 800 yards of St. Julien. The first line occupies a continuous intrenchment, the continuation of which runs right round Metz. All the villages are roughly fortified by barricades, chevaux-de-frise, &c.; holes are broken through all the houses for firing; and, indeed, every village forms a very respectable, if rough and ready, *festung*. The foreposts lie either in single houses, also well fortified by intrenchments and barricades, or in the field behind earthworks of no inconsiderable magnitude. The *feldwachts* (field-watches) chiefly occupy woods or the gardens of châteaux. A *feldwacht*, which may be taken as typical, is at Lauvallière. An isolated brewery on the great route, two kilometres nearer Metz than Montoy. Here lie two companies, arms in hand, and ready for a sortie on the enemy at any moment. To the left, at the hamlet of La Plancette, is another *feldwacht* in a deep ravine. Here I had to dismount and grope up the slope beyond to the knoll on which the solitary sentry kept his watch within easy shot of chassépot from the ramparts of Fort St. Julien. We could see with the naked eye the Frenchmen moving about the fortress and circulating about the environs both of it and of the town, which lies to the southward of it, the great eminence of Mont St. Quentin, with its mass of fortifications on the summit, dominating the whole valley from the further side of the Moselle. All the front which I traversed was pitted over with the craters of shells. The men of one of the regiments were erecting quite a permanent barracks of wood, the sides covered with earth, a little way in the rear of Lauvallière. To the north Noisseville is densely filled with Prussian troops; Nouilly, which lies between it and St. Julien, is neutral ground, occupied by neither army, while the French are in force in Mey, which is still nearer the fortress. We went forward to the edge of a wood near Mey, accompanied by two Prussian patrol-dragnons, and got a warning to go back in the shape of a sharp fusillade from out a garden in the environs of Mey. To complete the narrative of the localities, the environment is taken up on the right of the 1st Army Corps by the Landwehr Division, consisting of three brigades, each six battalions strong, under the command of General von Kummer. They cover the ground round nearly to the Moselle on the north. The General commanding the 1st Army Corps, his Excellency von Manteuffel, lies in Ste. Barbe, a little to our north. As the second officer commanding hereabout, he has the nominal command of all the army on this side the Moselle since the departure of General von Steinmetz, who also had his quarters in Ste. Barbe. Our immediate commander is General von Pritschitz, who is over the Second Division of the First Army Corps, and who has his quarters two kilometres behind us, in the little village of Puche, where likewise is the post.

FIGHTS AND INCIDENTS.

On the 28th there was a fight of some considerable magnitude. The Prussian foreposts occupied in no great strength the village of Colombey, where there are three large châteaux, in the upper stories of which there had been left by the aborigines a considerable store of grain. They have taken refuge in Metz, and probably acquainted the French of the existence of these stores. Anyhow, in the afternoon of the 28th, the French in large numbers, and covered by the artillery of St. Julien, made a dash at Colombey, their advance followed by a number of empty waggons. For once they surprised the comparatively weak Prussian foreposts, and drove them out of Colombey. Covering their operations by throwing forward tirailleurs into the woods to the front and towards La Plancette, they filled the waggons with the grain and started them on the return journey. But meanwhile the Prussian artillery had come to the front, and the shells fell thick among the Frenchmen in Colombey and the convoy on the road. The former scuttled in great haste under the guns of St. Julien; the waggons went on at a gallop; but, out of thirty-six only fourteen succeeded in getting safe off. The rest were arrested *in transitu* by the influence which the Prussian shells exercised on the animals which drew the waggons, an influence which manifested itself in limbs blown in a variety of directions. There was no great loss in killed or wounded on either side. A Captain of the 44th was killed under circumstances which are a disgrace to civilised warfare. When his detachment was in retreat he fell, wounded severely, but not mortally. His men placed him in shelter and then left him, as they fell back. When they recovered the village they found the corpse of their Captain mangled barbarously—his fingers cut off for the sake of the rings he wore, and his throat cut from ear to ear. The Prussians are justly incensed at this atrocity.

Deserters and the Prussian prisoners whom Bazaine has sent back concur in representing the condition of the troops inside and around Metz as being very bad in the matter of food. They are living chiefly on horseflesh, and have neither flour, rice, nor salt—the latter want being the subject of much complaint. The discipline of the troops is represented as good, and the morale of a character very different to that of the disorganised horde I saw throw down their arms at Sedan. But the Prussian returned prisoners unite in abusing the domineering greed of the French officers, who care nothing, comparatively, for their men, provided their own wants are satisfied. This selfishness seems forcibly to have struck the honest Prussians, who are used to treatment so different.

Between the foreposts of the two armies a tolerably genial feeling prevailed till the action of the 28th, which I have referred to. My friends here tell me that a Prussian mounted patrol the other day left a note under a stone addressed to the French officer in command of the forepost asking whether he could accommodate the Prussian forepost officer with a bottle of champagne. At the next round the bottle of champagne was duly found along with a request for a little knot of salt, which, of course, was complied with. The alertness and completeness of the Prussian forepost system is a great feature of the army, and one of the leading causes of its success. At night the *feldwacht* goes forward to the post occupied during the day by the farthest outlying sentry. Here it breaks right and left into small pickets, leaving a strong nucleus in the centre. The front at a distance of two or three hundred yards, is continually traversed by cavalry patrols, who often ride right in among the sleeping Frenchmen, whose system of night vigilance is not at all what it should be. Then there is a pistol shot and round of bootless chassépot firing in the dark—the daring Uhlans dashes out through the red-legs, back to his supporters. Talking of chassépot, I may mention that the Prussian forepost troops are now extensively armed with these weapons, to enable them to cope on equal terms with the French tirailleurs. Of the second battalion of the 4th Regiment seventy-five men are so armed, or rather seventy-five chassépot are in use, and are transferred from *feldwacht* to *feldwacht*, as the changes of guard are made. One whole regiment (the 35th) is armed with the chassépot. This settles the question as to the relative merits of the chassépot and the needle-gun in the eyes of the Prussians.

The Prussian army have obtained, from sources which I am not at liberty to mention, complete charts and full particulars of the position of the French troops lying around Metz. Bazaine's forces—that is to say, the army driven back on Metz after the battle of Gravelotte—is not permitted to enter the town of Metz. The whole army is encamped on the slopes of the fortifications either of the town or of the outlying strongholds, in the intervening country, and in the various villages which still remain in the possession of the French. The forts are garrisoned by Mobiles and National Guards. Bazaine's headquarters are inside the town. Opposite Flanville lies the 3rd Army Corps of the French army. Its nearest forepost is in the wood in front of Mey, and the chain extends southward to the front of Belle Croix. The

mass of the corps lies in the rear. Within the last few days a considerable camp has been established on the slope of St. Julien, looking towards Flanville. We can see the white tents, and the red-legged gentlemen strolling about them. Their patrols, mounted and on foot, cross our front so near that the countenances of the men can be made out with the glass. The Prussian *feldwachts* could pick them off quite easily if they chose; but there is an order against firing at small detached parties. The French do not practise the same civility. A single man cannot show himself on the advance line without being blazed at by a regular volley, which seldom takes any effect, the firing being so wild. The guard changing is a great time for a waste of French powder and shot all along the line, and Belle Croix spitefully throws a few shells on the brewery on the great chaussée constituting the chief forepost on our right front. Directly in front of us is Montoy and the important forepost, and to its left is another forepost in an isolated house on another chaussée, where stood a battery of Prussian artillery in the action of Sept. 28, that did much execution among the French troops. Another battery stood at the brewery (Lauvallière), which enfiladed them on their retreat, which was what Mrs. Malaprop would call "precipitous."

The few Prussian soldiers who casually fall into the hands of the French are now never detained more than twenty-four hours. One of the men thus returned has informed me that the scale of rations issued to the French troops is at the rate of one loaf to every twelve men per day—about four men's bread according to the ordinary issue—and a scanty portion of horseflesh. On the other hand, rations are full and good in the Prussian lines, but extras are comparatively dear. A dozen of eggs costs about 2s., and half a gallon of milk about 1s. 6d.; but, besides being dear, such delicacies are very scarce. The few inhabitants left have not many fowls, and fewer cows. Their disposition, too, is the reverse of kindly to the Prussian troops, and some stringent measures have been found necessary to put a stop to shooting from behind hedges.

About two o'clock, on Oct. 1, we observed that a Prussian battery stationed across the valley, at a place named Longeau, about a mile nearer Metz than St. Germain (where was finished the battle of Gravelotte), and on the great road between Metz and Paris, was firing shells down into the valley below. Everybody expected to see St. Quentin interfere with this game, which it could easily have done, for Longeau is not above a mile and a half from that fort; but its grim sides remained without a single wreath of smoke, while the white puffs continued rising rapidly from the battery at Longeau. Presently a great smoke rose in the valley, evidently the result of the shell-fire, and with the combined aid of our glasses and our maps we made out that the village of Moulins-les-Metz was burning. This village is close to St. Rufine, and adjacent to the river, between which latter and the village there is an earthwork. Our conjecture was that French troops were engaged in strengthening this earthwork when the Prussians opened fire, and that a casual shell set light to Moulins. It burned fiercely till late in the evening.—*Correspondent of Daily News.*

General Bazaine keeps the investing force at Metz actively employed. On Sunday last he attacked with considerable numbers the division of General Kummer. After a severe engagement the French retired (or, according to the German account, were driven back) with considerable loss. The German despatch says nothing about the Prussian losses.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD AND DRINK.

THE following is an abstract of a paper read before the Social Science Congress at Newcastle by Phillips Bevan, Esq., F.R.G.S., editor of the *Food Journal* :—

Although it is one of our most important social questions, the apathy and ignorance of the public on the subject of adulteration is astonishing. As each person thinks that all others are mortal except himself, so he imagines that adulteration affects any class but his own; and although we acknowledge its prevalence, and cry shame when we read of any particularly bad case, the sensation is but momentary, and we go on our way as before. What is adulteration, and what does it mean? It means the lowering of the physique of the nation, the poisoning of the people, the deterioration of our constitution; and, morally, a fraud practised by the seller on the buyer—a cheating to which we have become so callous that it has hardened our conscience for honesty in other and bigger things. The great difficulty in dealing with it is that the Government is so slow to move; and even men in high places practically defend it by declaring that it is not so bad as it might be; that the buyer must look to himself, and so on. It is also very common argument that people bring adulteration on themselves by buying such very cheap articles—so cheap that they cannot be good for the money. But they do so in ignorance; and if the seller was compelled to label his goods with the names of the real ingredients, such as "best butter mixed with starch, mashed potatoes, and horse-bone oil;" coffee, with bread-crumbs and sand;" "tea, with iron-filings;" "sugar, with chromate of lead;" "beer, with salt and cocculus indicus," it is not the least likely that their cheapness would tempt the buyer; and, if a certainty of detection and punishment followed, we should find that the sellers would think twice before they offered such articles. It is strange that, in all our sanitary machinery, the food question and its purity have been so overlooked; but pure food is as necessary as pure air, good drainage, or wholesome water; and it ought not to be left to the philanthropist to remedy the evil, with the tolerable certainty that he will only get snubbed for his pains. It is a Government question, as important as that of education or the Irish Church; and it ought not to be the duty of a private member of the House of Commons to bring in a bill.

With a view to arouse public interest, in conjunction with Messrs. J. M. Johnson and Sons, of Castle-street, Holborn, in February last, I established the *Food Journal*, feeling that there was a great want of some public organ to discuss these matters; and so convinced was I that no bill could properly be passed without the knowledge of the legislation which prevailed in other countries, that the late Earl of Clarendon was applied to for permission to address the various British Legations and Consulates abroad on the subject. His Lordship not only gave that permission, but evinced his great interest in the matter by requesting that a circular should be drawn up, embodying all the inquiries on food matters that it was desired to make. A thousand of these were accordingly issued through the Foreign Office; and Earl Granville, who has taken up the subject in the same warm and earnest spirit as evinced by his predecessor, has forwarded for publication in the *Food Journal* a mass of valuable information which has never before reached this country. To detail even an epitome of these answers would take up far too much of the time of this meeting. I will, therefore, only briefly touch on some of the main points of the first question of the circular—viz., "What legislative enactments at present exist in the country to which you are accredited respecting the adulteration of food and drink? Are these laws actively enforced; and how far do they appear to meet the evil?" Very valuable information comes to us from the United States, in Mr. Thornton's report, which adverts to the difficulty of getting systematic information, even through the well-arranged machinery of official correspondence. The State legislation varies very much in the different States; some possessing no legislation at all, and others inflicting very severe penalties. Each State legislates independently; and, in so doing, often delegates the regulation of these matters to the various town or county authorities within their borders. As a general rule, the adulteration of alcoholic liquors is almost universal.

In Rhode Island the penalty for adulteration of food, drink, and drugs or for selling unwholesome food, is imprisonment up to six months, or a fine up to 200 dols. In Vermont, for adulteration of medicine, imprisonment up to two years, or a fine up

to 400 dols. For selling adulterated intoxicating liquors, from 10 to 300 dols. for each offence. For selling unwholesome provisions, imprisonment up to six months, or fine up to 300 dols. For adulterating bread or any food with impurities injurious to health, imprisonment up to two years, or fine up to 300 dols. In Ohio, for adulterating spirituous liquors, a fine of 100 to 500 dols. and imprisonment for ten to thirty days. In Indiana, for adulterating any food or drink, a fine of from 50 to 500 dols. and, at discretion of the Court, imprisonment up to three months. In Illinois, a fine up to 100 dols., or imprisonment up to three months. In Missouri it is a misdemeanour, punishable with imprisonment up to one year, or a fine up to 500 dols.; but adulteration of intoxicating liquors with strychnine or any other injurious substance is a felony, punishable by imprisonment from two to five years. Every liquor-seller has to appear before the county clerk, and enter into a bond of 500 dols., with good security, not to mix or adulterate his liquors with any material, not even water; the penalty for non-compliance is a fine from 50 to 500 dols. There is also a very rigorous inspection and testing of all spirituous liquors imported into that State. In Mississippi adulteration is punishable by imprisonment from one year to five years. Cincinnati appears to turn its attention more to milk, for the sale of which the rules are extremely strict. Each milk-seller has, under a penalty of 100 dols., to have his milk inspected and tested, that it should not be watered, or the produce of diseased cows, or of cows kept in stables and fed upon garbage. The address of the dairy, whence the milk came, must be legibly painted on each stall. In Georgia every baker, brewer, distiller, grocer, merchant or other person selling pernicious or adulterated food and drink, and also all accessories after the fact, are liable to a fine up to 1000 dols., imprisonment up to six months, whipping up to thirty-nine lashes, and to work in a chain-gang up to twelve months. In Texas the fine for adulteration is from 20 to 500 dols. These laws generally work well throughout the States, but all the reports show that there is generally a pretty high standard of reputation amongst the dealers, although it is at the same time true that the system of comprehensive laws, and the knowledge that they will be strictly enforced, tends to preserve this feeling.

The Prussian Penal Code provides that any person selling adulterated or spoiled goods shall be liable to a penalty up to 50 dols., or imprisonment for six weeks, with confiscation of goods. In these cases it is not necessary that the seller be aware of the adulteration, for he is liable just the same. If death ensue, the seller is punished with death; but if only severe bodily injury, the penalty is imprisonment from ten up to twenty years. At Königsburg there is an additional law respecting the sale of damaged meat, and particularly of pork containing *trichina*. At Leipzig the same regulations are in force, but the police are not active. At Hamburg, if any injury happens to the buyer, the seller is liable to be imprisoned for from three months to four years.

In Holland the Dutch law is very similar to the Code Napoleon, and inflicts a punishment of imprisonment for from six days to two years, with a fine of from 16 to 500fl. The adulteration of bread with copperas or vitriol is dealt with by an imprisonment of from two to five years, and a fine of from 200 to 500 fl. Not only is punishment provided for people who mix ingredients for adulteration, but also for those who mix manufacture or sell the ingredients, knowing that they were to be used for adulteration.

Any fresh legislation on this subject should be compulsory in its character, and not permissive. All articles of consumption which are manufactured should have their ingredients declared, for there is a feeling prevalent amongst manufacturers—as, for instance, cocoamakers—that as long as their articles contain nothing hurtful, they are at liberty to call them by the general name of cocoa. Still, a sophistication is, to a certain extent, a fraud, and every purchaser has a right to know what he is purchasing; and although we might be safe in the hands of the largest and most respectable manufacturers, there is a considerable class of unprincipled makers who are not above taking advantage. Differences of opinion sometimes occur as to the relative hurtfulness of certain common adulterants; and an eminent authority has assured me that he had grave doubts as to whether alum was not a good thing instead of a bad one. I would suggest that there should be a Food Sub-department formed, which should take cognisance of all food legislation and supplies. To it a board of two or three of the most eminent analytical chemists should be attached, who should examine and pronounce upon all disputed chemical questions, and whose opinion should be law. The sub-department should have the election of, and a certain amount of control over, the county and borough analysts, whose appointment should be compulsory and not permissive; neither should it rest with vestries or corporations, many of the members of which are often largely concerned in adulteration. Inspectors should have power to visit and take samples from all dealers in articles of food, subject to certain checks, so as to prevent any risk of tyrannical domiciliary visits. They should also have the power of testing the supplies furnished to public bodies, such as union contracts; for guardians have frequently a habit of accepting tenders for food at a price at which the real article cannot possibly be supplied, as a London union board did the other day in the case of butter. In cases where a petty dealer declares his ignorance that the goods which he sells are adulterated, I should make the onus of proving this fall upon him, and then it would be for the Food Sub-department to take the matter up and prosecute the manufacturer. When adulteration takes place before importation, as in the case of the Maloo tea mixture, the department might well provide the machinery for setting consular and other influence to work to prevent it, and might also step in as the proper arbiter between conflicting interests. In this very case a great fraud on the public was allowed to go unpunished because the Customs could not legally forego the duty.

As to offences, when proved, I am no believer in either a very small or a very large fine; but I would have no sliding scale at the option of a magistrate. For the first offence the penalty should be sufficient to make the offender smart in his pocket; for the second I would double it, and have an *affiche* detailing the offence put outside his door, as also outside the door of the church, police-station, and Townhall for a month. The case should also be advertised in the local papers at the offender's expense. For the third offence there should be imprisonment for one month, with hard labour. Adulteration is either a fraud, or it is not, and it should be punished like any other cheating.

SCHOOL BOARDS AND THE LABOUR REPRESENTATION LEAGUE.—At a meeting of the council of this league, held last Saturday, the following resolution, on the motion of Mr. R. M. Latham, the president, was carried unanimously:—"That, as the election of school boards will soon take place throughout London, as well as in several of the provincial cities and towns, it is a paramount and pressing duty on the part of working men to use all the influence they possess to secure the return of representatives of their own order on such boards, to secure the return of representatives of special importance to working men, seeing that their children will be chiefly affected by the character and action of the school boards." It was also agreed that the league should take all the steps in its power for giving practical effect to the foregoing resolution. The reply of Mr. Forster to the deputation of working men who waited upon him last week in reference to the mode of electing the members of the Education Board for the metropolis has been well received by the members of the branches of the National Education League in London, and the working classes generally. During the next fortnight a series of district meetings of working men are to be held throughout London, under the auspices of a body of gentlemen taking a deep interest in the education of the people, for the purpose of creating an organisation by which the return of a fair proportion of bona fide working men to the board may be promoted at the coming election in November. Sub-committees are to be appointed, who will commence their active work as soon as the Education Department issue the uniform regulations, as promised by Mr. Forster, under which the elections are to take place. Amongst the working men who have been already announced as intending candidates in the different districts are Messrs. John Osborne, George Howell, Robert Applegarth, William Trant, George Odger, and Benjamin Lucraft. It is intended that an effort shall be made to get at least one third of the board—which, as at present settled, is to be forty in number—elected from the working classes.

NOTES FROM INSIDE PARIS.

(From the Diary of a Besieged Resident, in the "Daily News.")

ROCHEFORT, who was regarded even by his friends as a vain, mad-brained demagogue, has proved himself one of the most sensible and practical members of the Government. He has entirely subordinated his own particular views to the exigencies of the defence of the capital; and it is owing to his good sense that the Ultras have not indulged in any revolutionary excesses.

M. F. PYAT announces, in the *Combat*, that the musket of honour which is to be given to the man who shoots the King of Prussia is to have inscribed upon it the word "Peacemaker." We have taken it into our heads that the German army, Count Bismarck, the Crown Prince, and all the Generals of the corps d'armée are in favour of peace; and the only obstacle to its being at once concluded lies in the obstinacy of the Monarch, whom we usually term "that mystic drunkard."

The Mobiles, who receive 15. 50c. a day, complain that they are unable to support themselves on this pittance. The conduct of these peasants is above all praise. Physically and morally they are greatly the superiors of the ordinary run of Parisians. They are quiet, orderly, and, as a rule, even devout. The other day I went into the Madeleine, where some service was going on. It was full of Mobiles listening to the prayers of the priest. The Breton regiments are accompanied by their priests, who bless them before they go on duty. If the Parisians were not so thoroughly conceited one might hope that the presence of these villagers would have a beneficial effect upon them, and show them that the Frenchmen out of Paris are worth more than those within it. The generation of Parisians which has arrived at manhood during the existence of the Empire is, perhaps, the most contemptible that the world has ever seen. If one of these worthies is rich enough, his dream has been to keep a mistress in splendour; if this has been above his means, he has attempted to hang on to some wealthy *sauteuse*. The number of persons without available means who somehow managed to live on the fat of the land without ever doing a single day's honest work has become enormous. Most of them have, on some pretext or other, sneaked out of Paris. One sees now very few ribbons of the Legion of Honour, notwithstanding the reckless profusion with which this order was lavished: the Emperor's flock, marked with a red streak, have disappeared.

The latest Ultra paper publishes the account of a meeting which was remarkable, it observes, for the "excellent spirit which animated it, and the serious character of the speeches which were delivered at it." This is one of these serious orations:—"The Citizen Arthur de Fonvielle recommends all citizens to exercise the greatest vigilance as regards the manoeuvres of the police, and more especially those of the Prefet of the Police. This Ministry has passed from the hands of a Corsican into those of one of the assassins of the Mexican Republic." I derive considerable amusement from the perusal of the acts which are daily published reviling the world in general for not coming to the aid of Paris. I translate the opening paragraph of one of them which I have just read:—"In the midst of events which are overwhelming us, there is something still more melancholy than our defeat; it is our isolation. For a month the world looks on with an impassibility, mingled with shame and cynicism, at the ruin of a nation which possesses the most exquisite gifts of sociability, and which was the principal jewel of Europe and the eternal ornament of civilisation." Nothing like having a good opinion of oneself.

I send by this the last official news from the *Liberté* of this evening:—"The latest canard is that 10,000 Prussians are in a wood near Villejuif, where they have been driven by the French. As they, in the most cowardly manner, decline to come out of it, the wily Parisian braves are rubbing the outer circle of trees over with petroleum, as a preparatory step to burn them out." This veracious tale is believed by two thirds of Paris. We have a bread and a meat maximum; but, to force a butcher to sell you a cutlet at the tariff price, one has to go with a corporal's guard, which cannot always be procured. The *Gazette Officielle* contains a decree regulating the sale of horseflesh. I presume, if the siege lasts long enough, dogs, rats, and cats will be tarified. I have got 1000f. with me. It is impossible to draw upon England, consequently I see a moment coming when, unless rats are reasonable, I shall not be able to afford myself the luxury of one oftener than once a week. When I am at the end of my 1000f. I shall become an advocate for Felix Pyat's public tables, at which, as far as I understand his plan, those who have money pay, and those who have not eat.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 30

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED—B. ATKINSON, Leeds, innkeeper.
BANKRUPTS—T. B. COUSSENS, City, ship valuer—J. C. HAINES, Duke-street, Manchester-square, auctioneer—S. W. WEAVER, Kingston, grocer—T. R. BROCKLEHURST, Barnsley, Yorkshire, boot and shoe dealer—R. O. DAVIS, Milton-next-Gravesend, licensed victualler—W. DIXON and E. CLARKSON, Leeds, milliners—J. LEE, Silver-Place, Exeter, builder—T. QUIGGIN, Birkenshead, boot and shoe dealer—A. SPANTON, Hunstanton, attorney—L. THURLOW, Newington, near Sittingbourne, tailor.
SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS—A. and W. E. M. CAMPBELL, Glasgow Park, Edinburgh, vinegar merchants—A. CAMPBELL, Olan, baker—J. A. COUSIN, Princes-street, Edinburgh, keeper of a fancy emporium—J. MILLAR, Grindlay-street, Edinburgh, clothier—R. NAPIER, Sauchiehall street, Glasgow, tailor.

TUESDAY, OCT. 4.

BANKRUPTS—E. J. BATH, Whitechapel, printer—J. FRITH, Trinity-square, hotel-keeper—T. S. GOWLAND, East-bourne, bookseller—J. HILL, Liverpool, metal broker—J. LAWSON, Jun., Whitstable, Seasalter, brewer—W. LORD, Oldham, cotton-waste dealer—J. MICHELL, Newton Abbot, draper—J. POTTS and J. GLIFFE, Liverpool, brewers—J. RUANE, Sale, coach proprietor—J. RYLANDS, Kingston-on-Hull, cotton-spinner—R. SINCLAIR, West Barnet, victualler.

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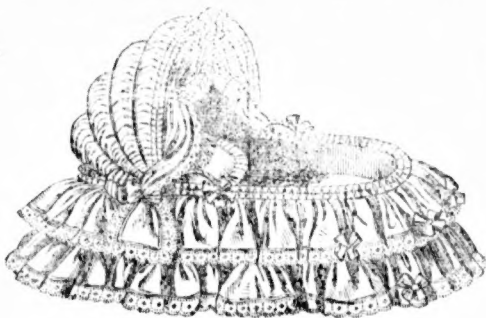
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